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AXIS TROOPS SECURE KEY TUNISIAN AREAS; SMASH ENEMY RAIDS

Invading Paratroopers Annihilated—16 Enemy Planes Crash in Desert Battle

BRITISH TANKS TRAPPED

U-Boat Claims Destroyer in Oran Harbor—Malta Suffers Heavy Bombing

Yomiuri-Hochi

BERLIN, December 19.—All important strategic points from the sea coast to the Atlas mountain range, in Tunisia, have fallen securely into the hands of the Axis, the German High Command revealed today. The announcement, which also covers other fronts in North Africa was to the following effect:

"Eastern Tunisia, from the east coast to the Atlas mountains, is now under the influence of the Axis who have captured all strategic points in that area. The Axis forces today annihilated the Anglo-American paratroops which descended upon the rear of the Axis forces.

"The Anglo-American air forces, since yesterday, have been raiding military establishments in eastern Tunisia, but damage caused is slight. The enemy lost 16 planes. Meantime, Axis air raids on enemy harbor facilities, military barracks and troops are bearing good result. Fierce, damage inflicting raids were carried out on concentrations of enemy tanks.

"The Libyan front, yesterday saw a tank unit of the British Eighth Army suffer the loss of 30 tanks. The above tank unit was enticed to advance toward an Axis gun emplacement which was cleverly camouflaged. Thus, the enemy was dealt a severe blow."

Axis Continues Successes

Domei

BERLIN, December 20.—On the North African front, the German-Italian forces in Libya, continuing their campaign on schedule, destroyed 21 British tanks, the German High Command announced today. On December 18, at night, the Axis air force visited the harbor at Tobruk and the airdrome on Malta Island and bombed enemy military establishments there. It also inflicted heavy damage to a large-size enemy merchant ship off the north-western coast of Benghazi.

On the Tunisian front, the German-Italian air force counter-attacked the enemy forces making preparations for an attack near Mejez el Bab and gained big results.

On December 18, the Anglo-American forces lost 18 aircraft against three lost by the Germans.

U-Boats Harass Enemy

Nichi Nichi

BERLIN, December 20.—German submarine units operating off the coast of North Africa sank one enemy ship and damaged one British destroyer in the neighborhood of the port of Oran, Algeria, according to the announcement of the German High Command given today.

Enemy Destroyer Sunk

Domei

BERLIN, December 20.—A German submarine last Saturday night sank one British destroyer off Oran Harbor, while two large-sized enemy cargo-boats were heavily damaged by German bombers near the seacoast of Cyrenaica, the German High Command revealed today. The communique follows:

"The two opposing forces in Libya and Tunisia are mainly engaged in scout operations at present. Near the coast of Cyrenaica, German bombers heavily damaged two large-sized enemy cargo-boats. They also carried out severe raids on Benghazi Harbor tonight.

"At a point west of Oran Harbor, a German submarine sank one British destroyer on the night of December 18."

Ship Sunk Off Malta

Domei

ROME, December 20.—A powerful German air formation severely bombed Malta Island tonight and sank one enemy vessel near the island, the Italian High Command announced here today.

The announcement, covering the latest enemy air raid on Tunis, said to the following effect:

"A crack German air force severely bombed the enemy air base on Malta Island tonight. The attackers

(Continued on Page 2)

Axis Planes Can Bomb New York Very Easily, Says Italian Expert

Nichi Nichi

ROME, December 19.—Challenging the statement made by Lieutenant-General Henry H. Arnold, Chief of the United States Army Air Force, that air raiding on various Italian points would be greatly intensified in the future, an aviation expert of the Picolo, an Italian newspaper, wrote that it is also possible for the Axis air forces to bomb New York. "In 1938, Germany already made Condor four-motored planes that flew directly from Berlin to New York, which is 8,300 kilometers, and also perfected smaller planes that flew from Berlin to Tokyo without making any landing," he said "Condor planes at that time were equipped with only 800 horsepower motors. But in these four years, great progress has been made and now planes are equipped with motors developing 1,500 to 1,800 horsepower. Now the Americans must realize that it is easy to bomb New York."

SPOKESMAN PRAISES PEOPLE OF THAILAND

Nipponese Deeply Moved by Thai Cooperation in the War, Declares Hori

CONFIDENT OF VICTORY

Asserts Amity Was Enhanced By Offensive-Defensive Alliance

All the Nipponese deeply appreciate the keen consciousness of the people of Thailand of the real significance of the War of Greater East Asia and they confidently expect the ultimate victory over their common enemy and the realization of the New Order in East Asia, declared Tomokazu Hori, Spokesman of the Board of Information, in his statement in commemoration of the first anniversary today, of the conclusion of the Nippon-Thai Offensive-Defensive Alliance, issued at the regular conference of foreign correspondents this morning.

Mr. Hori's statement follows:

Today is the first anniversary of the conclusion of the Nippon-Thai Offensive-Defensive Alliance Treaty. The past year has been marked by the complete liquidation of Anglo-American-Dutch influence from the region of Greater East Asia, upon which those international aggressors have preyed for centuries and whose people they have ruthlessly exploited to satiate their imperialistic greed.

Through the series of brilliant exploits by the Imperial Forces against the Anglo-American-Dutch forces, in which the people of East Asia cooperated heartily, the countries of the region have diverted to their original state with the possibility of their intrinsic features being developed without Anglo-American interference. The past one year has been particularly memorable in the relation between Nippon and Thailand which have for centuries been characterized by traditional cordial friendship and in its beginning Thailand played a highly important role as a member of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, by taking the decisive step of entering into the Offensive-Defensive Alliance with Nippon on the basis of mutual respect for independence and sovereignty.

Subsequently, Thailand declared war on the United States and the British Empire, thus fully substantiating the spirit of the Treaty. Under the able leadership of Premier Luang Pibul Songgram, the Government and people of Thailand have wholeheartedly collaborated with Nippon for the prosecution of the war, sharing in common all joys and hardships.

In her internal affairs, Thailand has left no stone unturned in eradicating whatever lingering Anglo-American influences that may have remained in that country by exerting all efforts to restore her innate Asiatic characteristics.

In the military, political, economic and cultural fields, the relations between Nippon and Thailand have become evermore cordial as has been demonstrated by the mutual exchange of distinguished missions on various occasions.

The whole Nipponese people deep-

(Continued on Page 2)

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL SET UP IBERIAN BLOC IN NEUTRALITY MOVE

Four-Point Understanding Reportedly Reached Between Neighboring Nations

SAID PEACEFUL IN NATURE

Based on Mutual Respect of Indepedence and Recognition Of Special Position

Domei

LISBON, December 20.—The formation of an Iberian Bloc between Spain and Portugal was announced today.

Spanish Foreign Minister General Francisco G. Jordana had been conferring with Portuguese Premier Antonio de Oliveira Salazar since his arrival at Lisbon Friday, and the formation of the Iberian Bloc as the result of their conference was made public at the luncheon given by Premier Salazar to the visiting Spanish Foreign Minister.

"The diplomatic policy of our neighbor, Spain, has always been for the maintenance of a friendly relation with Portugal, and an understanding has now been reached between the two countries to mutually respect independence and special position," Premier Salazar said at the luncheon. "Not only great benefits are to be brought to both countries by this development, but also Portugal and Spain will be enabled to fulfil their duty toward contributing to the advancement of civilization."

In reply, Foreign Minister Jordana of Spain declared:

"The policy of Spain and Portugal is to materialize the wish of the peoples of the two nations to avoid war. The Iberian Bloc formed by the two countries will contribute much to the international situation, as it is of a peaceful nature. At the time of the Spanish revolution, Portuguese volunteers shed their blood for the sake of the Iberian civilization. The peoples of the two nations are now wishing to maintain their existing position under the present world situation."

The nature of the Iberian Bloc is not made public, but informed circles report that understanding was reached between Spain and Portugal on the following points.

1. Maintenance of common neutrality to meet the changed international condition brought about by the invasion of French territories by British-American forces.

2. Preparation for military cooperation to meet any development.

3. Protection and maintenance of the Iberian civilization that aims at the rejection of Communism.

4. Strengthening of economic cooperation.

RESCUED THAI STUDENTS REACH TAIWAN IN SAFETY

Nephew of Premier Songgram Exposes Humiliation Imposed By American Troops

Domei

TAKAO, Taiwan, December 20.—A party of 11 Thai students who were interned in the Negros Island in the Philippines by the enemy at the outset of the War of Greater East Asia, and later rescued by Nippon Forces, arrived here today.

Included among the party was Samuley Khittasongka, 17-year-old nephew of Premier Luang Pibul Songgram.

In a press interview, Mr. Khittasongka, recalling his indignation at the humiliation imposed upon him by the Americans troops in the Philippines, said that they were interned at an enemy barrack in Negros Island soon after Thailand entered the war and were maltreated by the enemy forces.

With rumors that the Nippon Forces were planning to land on the island, he said, they were removed to Mt. Chinankan, where they were later rescued by the Imperial troops.

In conclusion, he announced that he would make every effort for the achievement of the lofty ideals, "Thailand for Thai people" and "Freedom for Thailand," and, at the same time, help in accelerating the establishment of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere.

Mr. Khittasongka was overjoyed to learn that his first name resembled the Nipponese "samurai."

Blue Holiday Facing Yanks at Chungking As 'Xmas Boat' from Home Reported Sunk

By Arrangement with the Asahi
(Special to the Japan Times Advertiser)

CANTON, December 20.—With an Indian-bound ship from the United States carrying Christmas presents having been reportedly sunk on its way, the American flying officers in China under the Chungking regime are going to have a miserable Christmas, a United Press report stated yesterday.

The American officers of the expeditionary air force in China, says the report, are now kept busy in preparing for the coming Christmas but the lack of American ornaments has presented a trouble.

"Though we, the members of the American Expeditionary Forces in China, have commenced preparations for Christmas earlier than our comrades-in-arms on other fronts," the American "heroes of the sky" are complaining, "we are suffering from the shortage of decorations for the function. There is nothing to be called ornaments here in China, which is remoter than Africa from the homeland.

"More trouble lies in the fact that we cannot get dancing partners. Miss Todd, attached to the American Forces, has tried every means available but has failed to achieve good results in this matter. We are now hunting for the daughters of the Chinese who have lived in foreign countries.

"Rumor has it that 1,800 pounds of turkeys have reached Calcutta but we have no plan as to how to cook them. Moreover, it is very difficult to obtain foreign liquor. As a small bottle of liquor costs $75, we can hardly expect to get drunk to our satisfaction. There is nothing so miserable as officers who have to be on the alert all day Christmas."

BOMBAY EXCHANGE DAMAGED BY BOMB

Six Patriots Arrested on Suspicion of Having Connection With Explosion

Domei

LISBON, December 20.—A bomb exploded near the Stock Exchange at Bombay, India, today and the building of the Exchange was damaged, it is reported from Bombay. Six persons were arrested in connection with the explosion.

On the same day, Indian women's organizations staged an anti-British demonstration at Bombay, and seven women leaders were arrested.

Meanwhile, a village in the suburb of Bombay was fined 5,000 rupees for holding an anti-British demonstration.

Indian Casualties Revealed

By Arrangement with the Asahi
(Special to the Japan Times Advertiser)

BANGKOK, December 20.—In four months, from August 8 when the Indian uprising commenced to December 8, 2,875 Indians were shot to death or wounded by British authorities, 13,200 were arrested, and a total fine of 16,500,000 rupees was levied on various districts, it is reported by a secret broadcast from New Delhi.

The above figures are, however, based upon calculations by the British authorities, and actual figures are believed to be considerably larger than those officially announced.

RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND FINLAND SAID SERIOUS

American Envoy at Helsinki Back in Washington—Critical Point Reached, Says Press

Domei

STOCKHOLM, December 19.—The American Minister to Finland suddenly returned to America via London on December 17. In this connection, rumor has it in England and America that relations between America and Finland have gone from bad to worse.

The Daily Express, an English journal, for instance, commented as follows:

"The Washington Government considers the recent action of Finland as a gross violation against neutrality. The relations between America and Finland have now reached the most critical point ever experienced."

FRENCH COMMANDER TURNS DOWN DEMAND

Vice-Adm. Flois at Alexandria Refuses to Deliver Fleet To U.S., Britain

Domei

LISBON, December 19.—Since the Anglo-American army invaded North Africa, especially since Admiral Jean F. Darlan became head of the puppet Government of France in North Africa, the movement of the French Fleet in Alexandria, detained in the port ever since France surrendered to Germany, has been watched with much interest.

A dispatch reaching here today from London reports that Vice-Admiral Gaude Flois, Commander of the French fleet, has flatly refused the British demand to deliver the fleet. Vice-Admiral Flois, it is further reported, expressed his intention to keep command of the fleet in the future.

Rejects Anglo-U.S. Demand

Yomiuri-Hochi

STOCKHOLM, December 19.—Though the United States and Britain had been scheming to utilize the remaining French Fleet in Alexandria, the Commander-in-Chief of the French Fleet at Alexandria, Vice-Admiral Gaude Flois, announced his intention to flatly reject the British-American demand for the surrender of the fleet, and also that he will remain in command of the fleet.

24 CIVIL ADMINISTRATORS CHOSEN FOR ARMY, NAVY

Will Be Attached to Military Authorities in Occupied Regions

The appointment of 24 civil administrators to be attached to the military administration in the Japanese-occupied regions, including 20 for the Imperial Army and four for the Imperial Navy, was officially announced on Saturday, according to Domei.

The new appointees for the Army are all judicial officials including 14 judges and six procurators, while the appointees for the Navy include one official of the Home Ministry, two officials of the Foreign Ministry and one official of the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry.

8-Year-Old School Boy of Tokyo Makes Gift Of 2,000 Drawings to Servicemen at Front

A huge total of 2,000 drawings, with a letter of consolation pasted on the reverse side, were presented to the Army and Navy Ministries by an eight-year-old boy by the name of Jo Konuma, a second-year class pupil of the Nishida National School of Suginami-ku.

Each and every one of these picture-drawings was executed by little Jo himself, who was prompted to console and give delight to the officers and men of the Imperial Forces fighting at the front, reports the Asahi.

Jo painted his first picture when he was six years old, following the example of one of his friends, and since then he has been zealously devoted to this hobby.

Greatly moved by his son's eager desire to console the servicemen at the front, Jo's father took a hand in the matter and had the consolation letter, written by Jo, printed and pasted on the reverse side of each picture, thus bringing into reality little Jo's fervent wish.

The letter, written with the sincerity of which only a child is capable, follows in translation:

"My Dear Soldiers,

How are you? I hope you are all doing well. These are the pictures which I drew myself, and although I am afraid they may not be too good, I hope you will like them.

Please win the war as soon as possible, dear soldiers.

Your sincere friend.

Jo Konuma."

EMPEROR TO GRANT AUDIENCE TO WANG AT IMPERIAL PALACE

Nanking President to Hold Series of Meetings With Nippon Leaders

TO SEE PREMIER TODAY

Honor Guest Given Dai-Toa Geihin Kan in Azabu, as Headquarters

President Wang Ching-wei of the National Government of China, who arrived here from Nanking yesterday, was scheduled to make a courtesy call, in his capacity as president of the Executive Yuan, on Premier General Hideki Tojo this afternoon, states Domei. Tomorrow, the distinguished visitor is scheduled to be received in audience, in his capacity as President of the National Government, by His Majesty the Emperor in the Imperial Palace.

During his stay in the capital, the distinguished visitor will hold a series of meetings with Premier Tojo, Admiral Shigetaro Shimada, Navy Minister, Kazuo Aoki, Minister of Greater East Asiatic Affairs, and Masayuki Tani, Foreign Minister. It is understood that their conversations will have an important bearing on the construction of Greater East Asia.

During his visit here, President Wang's headquarters will be at the Dai-Toa Geihin Kan (literally Greater East Asia Hall for Distinguished Guests) which is a detached mansion of the official residence of the Premier, located at Hiroo-cho in Azabu-ku. This mansion was completed last year and is a combination between Nipponese and foreign style covering a total floor of more than 200 tsubo and composed of 38 rooms. President Wang is the first honor guest to be received at the mansion.

From the Haneda airport where he arrived aboard his private plane at 1:50 p.m. yesterday and where he was met by Premier Tojo, Navy Minister Admiral Shimada, Foreign Minister Tani, Minister of Greater East Asiatic Affairs Aoki, Finance Minister Okinori Kaya, Railways Minister Yoshiaki Hatta, former Premier Baron Kiichiro Hiranuma, General Nobuyuki Abe, president of the Yokusan Seiji Kai (Imperial Rule Assistance Political Association) and many other notables, President Wang immediately proceeded to the Dai-Toa Geihin Kan together with a part of his suite. Foreign Minister Chu Min-yi and a few other members of President Wang's suite were registered at the Imperial Hotel.

At 6:30 o'clock yesterday evening, President Wang, attended an informal reception given in his honor by Hsu Liang, the Chinese Ambassador here, at the Chinese Embassy in Iigura, Azabu-ku. About 20 persons were present at the reception including Chinese Foreign Minister Chu and other members of President Wang's suite and members of the Embassy.

The reception was brought to an end at 9 p.m., when President Wang returned to his headquarters.

TO FORTIFY SPAIN FRONTIER

British Commander at Gibraltar Issues Order

Yomiuri-Hochi

BANGKOK, December 20.—Returning to Gibraltar from London yesterday, the Commander-in-Chief of the British Defense Forces at Gibraltar immediately issued an order to fortify the Spanish frontier northwest of Gibraltar, within 15 days, it is reported from Istanbul.

This order for fortifying the Spanish frontier has attracted much attention, the report added, because of the Churchill-Roosevelt conference at Washington and the meeting of Spanish Foreign Minister General Francisco G. Jordana and Portuguese Premier Antonio de Oliveira Salazar at Lisbon, in addition to the reported acute international situation concerning Spain.

Bolivia Declares Martial Law

Domei

LISBON, December 20.—The Republic of Bolivia recently declared martial law for the entire country in opposition to the present attempted rebellion, and it is reported that several leaders of the opposition group were arrested in the mining district, according to a report from Buenos Aires.

Recapture of Burma Extremely Difficult, Declares N.Y. Times

Nichi Nichi

CANTON, December 20.—The New York Times, in its Friday's editorial, declared that the recapture of Burma would be extremely difficult unless considerable military preparations are made because Burma has no transportation facilities besides railway lines and rivers, according to a New York broadcast intercepted here on Saturday.

STRONG SOVIET UNIT IN DON AREA ROUTED

Numerically Superior Russian Troops Fail Miserably in Counter-Offensive

REICH TAKES VITAL POINTS

Red Army Repulsed in Teriyok Sector—Axis Takes Many War Trophies

Yomiuri-Hochi

BERLIN, December 20.—Regarding the successful German operations in the middle stretches of the Don River, which yesterday saw the complete failure of a large-scale Soviet counter-offensive launched by a force much superior in number to the Germans, the German High Command yesterday made a statement to the following effect:

"The Soviet forces around the middle stretches of the Don River are continuing futile attempts to rout us, despite their successive reverses. In this connection, the Soviets, employing tank, artillery and infantry units, launched high-spirit attacks yesterday in order to penetrate our positions.

"The German forces, who were numerically inferior to the enemy fiercely met the counter-offensive, and a terrific battle ensued. Our spearhead was composed of tanks which fought furiously with the collaboration of the Italo-German air forces which bombed the enemy throughout the day.

"The Soviets were completely routed. Our forces blasted 52 tanks, 300 motorcars, 18 trench mortars, five anti-tank guns and two high-angle guns. On the other hand, three enemy fuel and ammunition depots were set ablaze while five enemy planes were shot down."

Soviets Lose 30 Tanks

Nichi Nichi

BERLIN, December 20.—Though Soviet forces had attempted to start a fierce counter-attack in the middle stretches of the Don River, they were beaten back by the Axis forces, losing more than 30 tanks, it was reported yesterday. Also, 17 enemy tanks and many trucks loaded with military supplies that attempted to ford the river were smashed in the same operation.

Axis Takes Vital Points

Domei

BERLIN, December 20.—The war situation on the Eastern Front is proceeding favorably for the Axis, the German High Command announced in its communique today. The announcement follows:

All attempts of the Soviets to attack from their positions between the Volga and Don rivers and in the Terek sector ended in utter failure. A German mobile division operating in this area, in close concert with the Rumanian forces, occupied important points on the banks of the Don and Volga rivers.

Fresh counter-offensives were made by the Soviets in Stalingrad and around the bend of the Don River. These, however, were forestalled by the Germans, who routed the enemy. The Soviets lost 164 tanks in this engagement.

The Soviets, positioned around the Don River staged an offensive with infantry and tank units against the Germans and Italians, and a fierce encounter followed. The enemy lost 20 tanks in this engagement.

The western sector of Tropetz saw the Germans routing the Soviets, with several strategic points falling into the hands of the victorious Reich forces.

Germans Repulse Soviets

Domei

BERLIN, December 20.—The advance of the German forces on all fronts was reported in a communique issued by the Reich Army Headquarters yesterday.

In a communique issued at noon.

(Continued on Page 2)

ALL THAILAND FETES INITIAL ANNIVERSARY AS ALLY OF NIPPON

Rites Held in Front of Emerald Buddha at Bangkok—Premier, Tsubokami Speak

GREAT RESULTS ATTAINED

Continuation of War Successes Hoped—Various State Functions Slated

Domei

BANGKOK, December 21.—With the national flags of Nippon and Thailand hoisted at every door, all Thailand today celebrated the first anniversary of the conclusion of the Offensive and Defensive Alliance. Various events took place throughout the country to commemorate the occasion.

At Bangkok, solemn rites were held in front of the Emerald Buddha in the presence of all leaders of the Thai Government including Premier Field-Marshal Pibul Songgram, Japanese Ambassador to Thailand Teiji Tsubokami, the Japanese military authorities resident in the country and other dignitaries.

Premier Songgram, in his congratulatory address after the rites, pledged that he would do his level best to realize even closer cooperation of Thailand with Nippon in the latter's effort to build a Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere.

The address was followed by a high Buddhist priest of Thailand who offered prayer for the successful execution of the War of Greater East Asia. The rites ended at 11 a.m.

Premier Songgram will hold a grand garden party at 4 p.m. today with many guests including those among both Thai and Nipponese residents in the country. Thai Foreign Minister Nai Vichit Vichitathakarn will be host at a large dinner given in the honor of the anniversary this evening. Various other celebration events more or less large in scale, will be held here and there in the land, all to consolidate the Thai resolution to bring about a successful end to the war they are fighting on the side of Nippon.

Prayer Answered

The congratulatory address delivered by Premier Pibul Songgram at the celebration of the first anniversary of the Nippon-Thailand Offensive and Defensive Alliance is as follows:

"Last year, in front of this sacred Emerald Buddha, we signed the Nippon-Thai Alliance Treaty. The importance of the treaty lies in binding the two nations for the execution of the War of Greater East Asia by mutually cooperating upon the friendly basis of respecting each other's independence and sovereignty. One year already passed and what we had prayed for a year ago is already materialized, and the military forces of the two countries have gained satisfactory victories.

The unity and cooperation between the Governments and peoples of the two countries deserve the highest praise. The results we have attained in the past one year is immense. We firmly believe that our endeavors for establishing the welfare and happiness of Asiatic races will surely succeed. I again pray that by the blessing of the Emerald Buddha, great success equalling what we have attained so far will be realized during the coming year for the permanent peace and glory of Asia."

Ambassador Teiji Tsubokami's response to the Premier's address is as follows:

"It is my greatest honor to reply in the presence of the Emerald Buddha to the address given by His Excellency the Premier, as a representative of the Government and people of Nippon. In the first year after the signature of the Nippon-Thai Alliance Treaty, the cooperation of the two nations has been perfectly effected. Furthermore Nippon is confident, just as Thailand is, that every provision of the Treaty will be completely carried out. In the meanwhile, Nippon has gained the unparalleled victory in smashing the Anglo-Saxon powers of East Asian peoples, and now East Asia has entered the stage of constructing the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere.

"One year ago today, at this spot, we pledged to gain final victory, to drive out evil and to establish justice throughout the world. We go willingly for the sake of justice in the traditional faith of the people of Nippon. One who acts on a just-

(Continued on Page 2)

NIPPON IS RESPECTED BY MEXICAN PEOPLE

Resident Naval Officer, Who Was There at War's Outbreak, Recalls Event

IGNORED U.S. PRESSURE

Popular Feeling for Nipponese Could Not Be Quenched by American Coercion

Mexico, on December 8 (Mexico time), the day after the Japanese declaration of war on the United States and Britain and the blitzkrieg on Pearl Harbor, resisted the pressure of the United States to force it to declare war on Japan and, instead, confined itself to a mere discontinuance of relations with Japan, according to the version of that memorable moment in world history which Captain Tadasuke Hamanaka, then resident naval officer in Mexico, told a Domei correspondent at the Suikosha, Naval Officers Club, in Osaka Friday.

Captain Hamanaka was interviewed on his arrival in Osaka where he was visiting for old times' sake, as he had once been the head of the local naval personnel department there, after returning from Mexico by the diplomats' exchange ship. Describing the dilemma from which the Mexican Government is suffering, namely, the armed pressure of the United States and the friendly feeling of the Mexican people toward Japan, the former resident naval officer said:

Mexicans Liked Japan

"It was in July last year, when war clouds were hanging low over the Pacific while Ambassador Admiral Kichisaburo Nomura was conducting negotiations in Washington, that I was appointed, for the second time, as resident officer in Mexico. Now, Mexico has ever been a friend of Japan from the very bottom of its heart. During the four years that I was resident officer there the first time, between 1936 and 1940, both the Mexican Government and people took every occasion to indicate their anti-American and pro-Japanese sentiments. The Mexican Army even sent a brass band out to the pier to give me a memorable send-off.

"Within the next few years, however, conditions utterly changed in this pro-Japanese country. Behind the various articles in the Universal and other influential Mexican papers which were calculated to please the United States, I could clearly perceive the lurking hand of American armed threat which was rapidly being intensified. When I arrived at the station, I was surprised, therefore, to see a brass band playing to welcome me, although it was smaller than on the occasion of my departure. I learned later that the Mexican Army had considered it wiser to withhold any sumptuous display of welcome to a Japanese resident officer as it would irritate the United States but the Mexican citizens took it on themselves to organize the band for the occasion. I was moved by such a show of friendly feeling toward Japan and acutely felt the extent of the Mexican popular confidence in Japan before the armed force of a powerful neighbor.

"The United States at that time was coercing Mexico to allow it to extend and strengthen its railway lines through Mexican territory over the shortest distance between the Atlantic and Pacific, prepare airdromes, build underground facilities, reinforce Pacific coast harbor facilities, prospect for and collect petroleum and cultivate rubber and to yield other concessions. Through these behind-the-scene activities on the Mexican diplomatic front, I was made to feel keenly the intense American dread of Japan's advance and the blockade of the Burma route that must inevitably follow. The United States at that time, however, had neither any resolve or preparation to participate in the European War, much less to go to war with Japan. It was evidently counting on the exhaustion of Germany in the war with Britain and that of Japan in the China Affair, itself remaining behind and supplying munitions as the arsenal of Democracy. In time Japan will be compelled to surrender to the United States. Such was the fond outlook of the United States. But soon the tense atmosphere in the Southwestern Pacific area could be felt even in Mexico. The Mexican press regarded the dispatch of Ambassador Saburo Kurusu to Washington as inaugurating the last stage of the United States-Japan negotiations. On December 2, the Mexican press even reported that the negotiations were at a crisis.

Receives Good News

"It was 2 o'clock in the afternoon of December 7 (Mexican time) when I first received news of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Tears welled up to our eyes as my staff and I listened to the radio report of that historic event. We shouted banzai at the top of our voices as if to make the cheers heard across the Pacific. The broadcast announcements from Tokyo were most clearly heard where we were, increasing our wonder and giving us courage.

"At once I had the Tokyo and Washington radio reports translated into Mexican and the following day I took the translations to the head of the General Affairs Department with whom I was on intimate terms. He was astonished at the feats of the Japanese, because he had received only the American version of the Pearl Harbor debacle, and promised that he would show them to the various members of the Cabinet who were meeting at 3 p.m. that day.

"At about 7:30 p.m. our Minister was notified that the Mexican Government had severed relations with Japan, avoiding a declaration of war. I was grateful to the efforts of the Cabinet members who resisted the American pressure firmly enough to allow us a considerable measure of freedom. The Mexican people have always been friendly toward Japan and their goodwill is not likely to be destroyed under any American pressure. When we come out victorious in the War of Greater East Asia, the Mexican Government and people will cry banzai for Japan from the bottom of their hearts."

Press Comments

Monday, December 21
ASAHI—Thrice Welcome Wang Ching-wei; First Anniversary of Nippon-Thai Alliance
NICHI NICHI—Fighting Germany and Soviet Union Under Severe Cold

First Anniversary of Nippon Thai Alliance

ASAHI—It is just one year today since both Nippon and Thailand concluded an offensive and defensive alliance pledging their all-round cooperation for perfect prosecution of the War of Greater East Asia and for construction of a new order in East Asia, entering thus into a united and inseparable relationship, political, economic and military, and pledging at the same time also their non-conclusion of a separate peace or armistice. And we today celebrate this historic event.

What attitude Thailand would take upon the outbreak of the War of Greater East Asia—Thailand which had for many years been encroached upon by British and Chinese influence—had been closely watched by the world. But fortunately Premier Luang Pibul Songgram and other leaders of Thailand who had successfully worked their way through a thorny path for nearly 10 years since the Thai Revolution had decisive judgment to fully appreciate the deep significance of the War of Greater East Asia and most creditably succeeded in establishing a lasting and far-reaching great policy for their country

The friendship of the two nations, if viewed from the angle of the so-called "policy for Greater Asia," must be said to have originated from the time when Thailand, at the Assembly session of the League of Nations immediately after the Manchurian Incident, daringly waived its right of voting for condemnation against Nippon. In exactly 10 years after that, the great policy of construction of Greater East Asia which is being worked out by Nippon has indeed been reflected in Thailand's vigorous push on to an East Asiatic awakening.

Now, Thailand, both nominally and virtually, is placed in a position to be Nippon's friendly ally permanently. And it must be said to be a great task imposed on Nippon for the future to make Thailand return to its original East Asiatic status and to fully grasp the hearts of the people of that country.

Thrice Welcome Wang Ching-wei

ASAHI—When the great inspiration felt at the first anniversary of the opening of the war is still afresh in our minds, it is highly significant that we have been afforded an opportunity to welcome the visit for the third time to Nippon of Dr. Wang Ching-wei, President of the National Government of China and concurrently President of its Administrative Yuan.

It was in May, 1939 that Dr. Wang Ching-wei paid Nippon his first visit since he identified himself with the movement for peace and national construction. At the time, the movement was still in the stage of the quickening period and naturally his visit here was an incognito and an informal one. When Dr. Wang, however, visited this country for the second time in June last year, he did so amidst the pomp and grandeur of Court Ceremonies here in his capacity as President of the National Government of the Republic of China burning with hope and ardor for a new rise and concurrently President of the same Government's Administrative Yuan, Dr. Wang expressed his sincere thanks to both the Nippon Government and nation for the latter's friendly support given to the National Government and talked intimately with our Government leaders as to the measures for strengthening and accelerating the cooperation between the two nations.

It is reported that the purpose of the current visit of President Wang Ching-wei is to felicitate the spectacular war results of the Imperial Forces in the War of Greater East Asia, and to exchange opinions for furthering the close cooperation now existing between Nippon and China.

It is most reassuring to note that the National Government, since the outbreak of the present War, has been continuing its strenuous efforts with the principles of sharing both joys and sorrows with Nippon as advocated by President Wang. However, viewed from experiences gained during the past year of war, we cannot but feel that a time has come when the mode of putting into practice the collaboration between Nippon and China should be further scrutinized.

From the Nipponese point of view, it means the start of a measure to foster and strengthen the National Government, and from the Chinese standpoint further efforts toward establishing a stronger footing for cooperation.

It is sincerely hoped that President Wang, coming as he did at such a critical time, will achieve the object of his visit by exchanging free and frank opinions with the leaders of Nippon in the course of his discussions.

Fighting Germany and Soviet Union Under Severe Cold

NICHI NICHI—The Eastern Front has ushered in its second winter. About this time last year, an unprecedented cold spell was prevalent at this front making it impossible to carry out positive operations.

The weather condition in the Soviet Union this winter, however, is rather different. Having failed to repulse the Germans with the aid of General Winter last year, the Soviet leaders pinned much hope on the severe weather this winter, but contrary to their expectation, it has so far been relatively mild and no obstacle has yet been created by the elements in the operation of airplanes, tanks or heavy artillery.

Reichsfuehrer Adolf Hitler, in greeting this winter, declared that all necessary preparations for the coming season have been completed. This may be taken as the Fuehrer's assurance that the German forces can, and will emerge victorious even if the severe winter as they had experienced last year is repeated.

The damage and casualties inflicted on the Soviet forces during the past 18 months of war have been great, compelling the leaders to seek outside aid, but neither Britain nor the United States could offer much help to pull them out of distress. So they waited expectantly for a severe winter, but Nature, too, failed them. The Soviet forces, nevertheless, launched the winter counter-attack, either out of bravery or recklessness.

Toward the latter part of November, they were active in the vicinity of Stalingrad. In the southern sector, the Soviet forces took the offensive along a comprehensive front extending from Kotelnikovsky, located south of Stalingrad, to the Terek River in the northern Caucasus. They also attempted severe counter-attacks in the southwestern section of Kalinin, Rjev, Tropez and Veliki-luki.

The temperature is milder than the average year, but still it is 20 degrees below the freezing point, with blinding snow-storms occurring now and then. The German forces, however, had met these counter operations with ample readiness

In the northern sector, the Soviet forces centering around their mainstay of 12 divisions of sharpshooters and 14 divisions of tank corps, were smashed by the German units in Rjev. A crushing setback was likewise dealt on the Red troops in Kalinin while in the Tropez and Veliki-luki sectors, the German forces are annihilating the enemy.

In the southernmost front, a large offensive was launched by the Germans on December 14, and two days later, the Soviet forces were obliged to abandon their firing line and retreat toward the Caspian Sea and the Volga with the German forces close on their heels.

In one of the most severest battles around Stalingrad, the German forces, in cooperation with the Italian, Hungarian and Rumanian units, have succeeded not only in intercepting the Soviet counter-attack, but have repulsed them as was admitted by the Soviet Board of Information on December 15. Thus, all Soviet attempts for counter-attacks were totally frustrated with considerable damage and casualties.

There is every reason to believe that the Soviet leaders made at least one miscalculation in mapping out these operations. Premier Josef Stalin, in commenting on the Anglo-American invasion of North Africa, declared that it is not the second front as desired by the Soviet Union. But, the Soviet military leaders nevertheless took it for granted that the North African front will serve to forestall German operations and acted accordingly.

Contrary to their expectation, however, the Germans were not in the least affected by the Anglo-American operations in the French colonies in North Africa.

It is well for the Soviet authorities to scrutinize the statement issued by the Germans on November 17. It said, in part, that from the general aspect of war in Europe, importance is attached to the Eastern Front and stressed particularly that the German operations in the East Front will not be affected at all by the turn of events in the North African front. It must be considered that these two points will apply to all future operations between Germany and the Soviet Union.

MEIJI AGAIN SWEEPS KANTO GAIKYU TITLE

Fighting Keio Team Loses 6-0 Before Record Crowd—Waseda Conquers Nisei Rengo-kai

Final Standings
Kanto Gaikyu League

	Won	Lost	Tied
Meiji	4	0	1
Keio	4	1	0
Waseda	3	2	0
Rikkyo	1	2	2
Hosei	1	4	0
Nichidai	0	4	1

The mighty Meiji University gridiron machine, Kanto Gaikyu League champions, rolled over the Keio University eleven Sunday, 6-0, in a bruising battle before the season's record crowd at the Meiji Shrine stadium.

The triumph gave the title to the eleven from Surugadai for the third successive season. The charges under Coach Jun Hanaoka wound up the season with four victories and a tie.

Meiji smashed their way to the winning touchdown early in the second half, and then turned back everything that Keio threw at them.

The loss was Keio's first in five League games, but was its third straight setback at the hands of Meiji since the fall of 1941.

Meiji struck quickly a few minutes after the second half. Taking a Keio punt they started their touchdown drive from Keio's 34 yard line. A crack at the center and an end run picked up a first down on the 18-yard mark. Wakatake split center for three-yards, then spun a short bullet pass to Kuramoto over the center and Kuramoto fought his way to the score. The placement for the extra point was smothered.

Thereafter, the infuriated Mita eleven, not making much headway through a tough Meiji line, began to toss the ball around. Although badly handicapped by a strong wind which made long tosses impossible, one beauty of a pass, almost saw a Mita man off to the races.

Backed deep on their own 24-yard line, Miyakoshi connected with a flat short pass to Tokunaga, who immediately lateraled to Fukuyama. Fukuyama then proceeded to set up yardage until pulled down just inside Meiji's territory. Meiji's safety-man who made the tackle was the last man between Fukuyama and the goal.

Meiji Defense Strong

In the first half, Keio found Meiji a rough, tough defensive team which turned back three threats, one of them taking the Mita team to Meiji's 13-yard line. Fullback Todo provided the main spark for these drives.

Tokunaga's nice punting, aided considerably by a strong breeze that swept across the stadium, kept Meiji on the defensive throughout most of the first half

The game was a bruising battle from start to finish. Although one brief drive led to the only score, the game was a thriller. The battering which each team meted out to the other was terrific. Keio, however, substituted but two men. The nine "ironmen" for Keio were, ends Tokunaga and Hishida, tackle Sato, guard Takahashi, center, Okada, and the entire backfield quartet of Miyoshi, Todo, Miyakoshi and Fukuyama.

Turning on the heat in the second half to score a touchdown, the Waseda University defeated the Nisei Rengo-kai all-stars, 6 to 0. Although the all-stars kept pace with the collegians in the first half, the speed of the Waseda eleven proved too much after the rest period.

A long pass, Narumi to Yoshino, who took the toss in the end-zone clinched the game mid-way in the half. Thereafter the Rengo-kai eleven did themselves proud, stopping the furious drives of "Ole-man river" Narumi and company.

The Line-ups

Meiji		Keio
Kuramoto	LE	Hishida
Isobe	LT	Tanifuchi
Nikaido	LG	Yoshida
Tsuruoka	C	Okada
Suzuki	RG	Takahashi
Ito	RT	Sato
Inouye	RE	Tokunaga
Oda	QB	Fukuyama
Sumi	LH	Miyakoshi
Yamahira	RH	Miyoshi
Wakatake	FB	Todo

Scores

Meiji	0	6—6
Keio	0	0—0
Waseda	0	6—6
Rengo-kai	0	0—0

Comforting Boat-Dwellers

Children of boat-dwellers in Tokyo yesterday received gifts from a circuit boat of the Suijo Rimpo-kan, which sailed through the rivers and canals in the city to entertain the boat-dwelling youngsters in commemoration of the birthday of His Imperial Highness, the Crown Prince, which falls on December 23.

Early in the morning, boy members of the Rimpo-kan and the Zuiko Brass Band, on board a motorbat bedecked with flags, started from the Hakozaki-cho bank and sailed through the rivers, playing the Navy March. At noon, the party held a brass-band concert under the Doshu Bridge. The boat sailed as far as Shibaura, distributing along its course, 1,500 consolation kits to the boat-dwelling children.

The above photo shows the cheerful scene at the Doshu Bridge.

Nanking's Chief Executive Writes Poetry To Relieve Strain of Busy Political Life

By Arrangement with the Asahi
(Special to the Japan Times Advertiser)

NANKING, December 20.—President Wang Ching-wei of the National Government of China at Nanking, now on a visit to Nippon devotes almost all his time to political activities and his private life is definitely limited.

His spare time, if any, is spent in composing poems or writing the drafts of his public speeches whose literary beauty and ideological grandness have been a source of admiration of the Chinese populace to their great leader.

Wang Ching-wei

President Wang lives in a cream-colored mansion that stands among the residences of prominent Government officials in the residential quarters of Nanking. He has lived here ever since the seat of his Government was removed to this city.

Strict punctuality marks the daily life of the President. Through all seasons of the year, President Wang gets up at 6 a.m., takes breakfast at 7 a.m., lunch at noon, supper at 7 p.m. and goes to bed at 11 p.m.

He spends one hour from 6 to 7 a.m. in reading newspapers or taking a walk in the flower garden beside his mansion. At 7 a.m., he takes breakfast of bread, milk, eggs and fruits together with his family members. Except when he attends official and private receptions, the President has his meals together with his family.

His political business commences at 8 a.m. His business hours are extremely busy as he holds many concurrent posts such as the President of the Executive Yuan, Chairman of the Central Political Council, the Military Council, and the Commission for the Local Pacification Movement as well as of the councils for economic and constitutional affairs. He never neglects to read all the papers submitted by the councils he is concerned with and various Yuans of the Government.

On Tuesdays, he attends the conference of the Executive Yuan at 9 a.m. and on Wednesdays and Thursdays, the regular meetings of the Military Council and the Central Political Council respectively to preside over them in the capacity of the chairman of these organs.

On other days of the week, the President gives interviews during the morning to Government leaders, Japanese diplomatic and military representatives and other visitors from various circles. At times, he visits the Central Military Training Camp, of which he is the head, to give instructions to its members.

One hour from noon to 1 p.m. is devoted to taking lunch and the subsequent hour to taking a rest. From 2 to 3 p.m., President Wang reads newspapers and magazines and also writes letters. After 3 p.m., he again receives visitors with whom he has important talks.

A busy day over, the President retires to family life at 7 p.m. to take dinner. A few hours after supper till bed-time are devoted to reading, chats with his family, writing drafts of his speeches and to composing poems.

A busy statesman as he is, President Wang does not fail to utilize his short spare time in writing poems, which is his hobby. He published an excellent anthology last year and is claimed to be a first-class poet.

Strong Soviet Unit In Don Area Routed

(Continued From Page 1)

the Reich military authorities announced that, on the eastern front, the repeated attacks of the Soviet forces in the Teriyok area had been repulsed, the Germans taking prisoner 20 Soviet officers and men and capturing large quantities of munitions. In the Don-Volga area, the German-Rumanian forces beat the enemy back toward the northeast and wrecked 22 Soviet tanks. On the Don River front, the Soviets came attacking in a large force but the German-Italian infantry, supported by air and artillery units, repulsed the enemy after inflicting heavy losses, The Soviets lost 50 armored cars.

Germans Press Sovjets
By Arrangement with the Asahi
(Special to the Japan Times Advertiser)

SHANGHAI, December 20.—The situation on the Eastern Front, despite the rapidly lowering temperature, is still remarkable in fury and ferocity.

As gathered from various reports reaching here, the hostilities are most heated in the southern sector of the same front, especially in the zone between the Volga and Don rivers, Stalingrad and its vicinity and the middle stretches of the Don.

In the sector between the Don and Volga rivers, all the Soviet counter-attacks have been successfully checked by the German forces who, from last week, have assumed the offensive with the receipt of fresh troops. These German forces, after reducing several vital enemy bases, are pressing the enemy to the northeast.

The Soviets in the Stalingrad sector, intent on crossing the Volga River from east to west, are being checked in every attempt to do so. In other sections in Stalingrad, fierce encounters are reported occurring daily.

On December 16 a large-scale counter-offensive was launched by the Soviet forces positioned on the middle stretches of the Don River. However, the offensive ended in the utter routing of the Soviets before the iron might of the Italo-German combined forces who succeeded in destroying more than 100 Soviet tanks. Fighting in this sector is still proceeding.

As regards the persistent counter-offensives by the Soviets on the Eastern Front, a war correspondent of the Transocean news service, General Stilfred, explained the reason a few days ago in the following vein:

"The desperate attempts of the Soviets will undoubtedly continue for some time to come. This is based, I believe, on the recent instructions of Soviet Premier Josef Stalin given to the generals in command of the Soviet troops on the Eastern Front. He was reported to have ordered the latter to see that all vital Soviet positions lost during the summer and the beginning of winter this year should be recaptured at all costs."

DYAKARTA OBSERVES MOHAMMEDAN RITES

Thanksgiving Festival Participated in by 100,000 Devotees—Thank Nippon for Occasion

Yomiuri-Hochi

DYAKARTA, December 18.—The Mohammedan Thanksgiving Festival was observed with due ceremony at the Central Square here on December 18, the 10th day of the last month of the Moslem almanac.

More than 100,000 Mohammedans crowded the square before the function commenced at 9 a.m. The ceremony was started with the recitation of prayers by priests in which the whole assembly joined. It was followed by a preaching by the chief priest, who declared that the resident Mohammedans had never had the privilege of holding such a gala function of Thanksgiving during the rule of the Dutch Government and urged the devotees to accelerate their cooperation with the Nipponese who have been considerate enough to give full cognizance to their religion.

A ceremony of sacrificing a cow and a sheep for the Allah was conducted according to the traditional process. Offerings were made before the altar by the devotees. The function was closed at 3 p.m.

Those who could not attend the ceremony at the Central Square visited the mosques in the city where similar rites were held. Grand banquets and meetings were held at various places in the evening, while the atmosphere of gratitude and blessing prevailed in the city.

All Thailand Fetes Initial Anniversary As Allies of Nippon

(Continued from Page 1)

ified motive always wins, while one who acts on an impure desire fails. Our war is that of justice, and therefore we are confident that Heaven and Buddha will permanently side with us.

"Again, standing before the Emerald Buddha, I report that the cooperation and victory attained by the two nations in the first year of alliance have not betrayed our pledge made a year ago, and at the same time, I desire to be able to make a report of greater glory at the coming second anniversary of the alliance."

Spokesman Praises People of Thailand

(Continued From Page 1)

ly appreciate the keen consciousness of the people of Thailand of the real significance of the War of Greater East Asia and they confidently expect the ultimate victory over their common enemy and the realization of the New Order in this part of the world thereby contributing to world peace.

Reich-Sweden Sign Trade Pact

Domei

STOCKHOLM, December 20.—A Treaty of Commerce was signed between Germany and Sweden yesterday and details of the treaty will be soon announced.

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Kansai Notes

An attractive art exhibition of the recent works of Paul Jacoulet, the noted French artist residing in Tokyo, is currently being held at the Vernet Club in Kobe to last until Thursday, December 24.

The display includes wood-cut prints and paintings by Mr. Jacoulet on subjects in Nippon, China, Chosen and the Southern Regions. All art lovers in Kobe should take this rare opportunity to attend the exhibition given by the French artist, especially as the subjects are those on Nippon and Greater East Asia.

The K.R. and A.C. team split even with their opponents in the two games played on Saturday on the Recreation Ground.

In the first match of the afternoon, the K.R. and A.C. hockey eleven trimmed the Kobe University of Commerce team 5 to 1, the first half ending 2 to 0 in the foreigners' favor. In the second game, the Club soccer team met defeat at the hands of the All-Kobe squad, the score being 1 to 0.

Axis Troops Secure Key Tunisian Areas; Smash Enemy Raids

(Continued From Page 1)

also sank one vessel, a member of a British convoy at a point close to the southwestern coast of the island.

The enemy air raiders who attacked Tunis Harbor and vicinity caused 26 deaths and 47 wounded, all civilian residents of the port. They also killed 27 and injured 30, all non-combatants, in the suburbs of the port. No military establishment in the harbor suffered damage.

Investigates Mosques

C.P.S.

NANKING, December 18.—The Frontier Affairs Commission has ordered Ma Ting-An, special representative of the Commission, to make a thorough investigation into the conditions of the mosques and Mohammedans in the capital.

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FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF JAPAN-THAI PACT TO BE FETED TODAY

Past Year's Events Prove Alliance Between Two Countries Is Key to Victory

RELATIONS INSEPARABLE

Tsubokami Asserts Help of Thailand Will Assure Defeat Of U.S., Britain

One of the most memorable occurences which startled the world since the outbreak of the War of Greater East Asia, and which will go down in the annals of the world as a landmark in the progress of peace, is the Japan-Thai Offensive and Defensive Alliance signed between Japan and Thailand on December 21 last year.

Already one year has past since then, and in view of the overwhelming successes of the Imperial Japanese Forces in all sectors in East Asia, and of the German and Italian Forces on the North African and Eastern fronts, it is with hope and pleasure that the nations of Japan and Thailand greet the first anniversary of the Alliance.

The Premiers and Foreign Ministers of both countries will exchange telegrams of felicitation, and Japanese Ambassador Tsubokami to Thailand and Thai Ambassador Direck Jaiyanama to Japan will broadcast messages of congratulation to each other.

There will be nation-wide observance of the anniversary of the Alliance, and a felicitation program will be held at the Toho Gekijo from 1 p.m.

At this gathering, Premier Tojo and Thai Ambassador Direck Jaiyanama will make speeches.

In the evening at 6 p.m. the official residence of the Foreign Minister will be the scene of a party sponsored by both the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Greater East Asiatic Affairs, and attended by Premier Tojo and Cabinet members, leaders of the military, and by Thai Ambassador Jaiyanama and members of the Thai Embassy. Addresses of congratulation and felicitation will be exchanged, and those concerned will further strengthen the pledge of mutual help and friendship between the two countries.

Ties Stronger

Domei

BANGKOK, December 20.—On the eve of the first anniversary of the Japan Thai Offensive and Defensive Alliance, Ambassador Teiji Tsubokami reviewed Japan-Thai relations for the past year, and expressed his hopes for the future as follows:

A year has already elapsed since the memorable signing of the Japan-Thai Offensive and Defensive Alliance, which will go down in history as one of the most epoch-making pacts in the world.

Culminating the many years of friendship between the two countries, the Japan-Thai Offensive and Defensive Alliance was signed two weeks after the outbreak of the War of Greater East Asia enhancing thereby the sympathy and friendship between Japan and Thailand The following year, on January 25. Thailand proclaimed war against Britain and America, and astonished the world.

The Japan-Thai Alliance is a natural outcome of Japan-Thai relations which have a long history. To put it another way, the Alliance is merely the manifestation of history coming to a flux. Since then, like two brothers, Japan and Thailand have stood shoulder to shoulder, through thick and thin.

While the Imperial Forces were sweeping through Malaya and Burma, Thailand extended help in the background, acting as a commissariat and a base for Japanese operations. In cooperation with the Japanese Forces, Thai troops marched into the Shan States.

In non-military spheres also. Thailand extended great help, with her supplies of rice. To relieve Thai finances resulting from the British-American freezing of assets, Japan sent her a loan of ¥200,000,000, and established connection between the yen and the baht.

In cultural spheres, Thailand cut herself off from British and American cultural influence, returning to East Asiatic culture, and signed the Cultural Pact with Japan.

The Japanese were always ready, even at the sacrifice of self, to help the people of Thailand when the need arose.

Thus, despite vicious enemy propaganda to the contrary, Japan-Thai

(Continued on Page 2)

PRESIDENT WANG AGAIN VISITS JAPAN

Smiling, affable President Wang Ching-wei arrived at Haneda airport Sunday at 1:50 p.m., this time to explore with the Japanese Government leaders the hidden possibilities for more effective cooperation between the National Government of China and Japan. He was accompanied by high officials of the Nanking Government. At the airport to greet the suite were Premier Tojo, Cabinet Ministers and other important dignitaries.

SOVIETS TRANSFER INDUSTRIES TO URAL

Removal Was Inevitable as Vital Productive Areas Have Been Taken by Axis

Domei

KUIBISHEV, December 18.—Premier Josef Stalin astonished the world on the eve of the 25th. anniversary of the October Revolution when he announced that the center of the Soviet industries had been moved completely to the east of the Ural Mountains. This was an unavoidable move taken by the Soviet Union after it had lost the greater part of European Russia and when the remaining areas in Europe are under shell fire or under the threat of bombings.

The Soviet territory east of the Ural Mountains is more than twice the size of the United States and is estimated to hold as much natural resources as the United States. However, the greater part of this vast territory has not been developed while only a small portion of the regions near European-Russia or along rivers, sea coast and railways present more modern aspects. In order to cope with the long-lasting war against Germany and Italy, boasting a population of 500,000,000 people and in possession of the most advanced industries in Europe, it was necessary for the Soviet Union to obtain a new center of production.

The Soviet Union lost Ukraine last year and Donetz Basin and Kuban areas this year, all of which had been Russia's most important productive centers. Now that there seems to be a lull in the German attacks on the Eastern front, the Soviet Union frantically is engrossed in establishing a new industrial center, east of the Ural Mountains.

The various Soviet industries after they were moved to the new center are as follows:

1. The Iron Industry:

Iron produced in the occupied areas of Ukraine and the Donetz Basin amounted to more than 60 per cent of the total iron production in the Soviet Union. The Soviet Government, in order to amend the loss, is frantically build-

(Continued on Page 2)

R.R. SERVICE TO BE OPENED

Lucena and San Pablo in P.I. Now Connected

Domei

MANILA, December 20.—With the repair of four steel railway bridges which were destroyed by the American forces at the outset of the Greater East Asia War, railway service between Lucena, important trading center in southern Luzon, and San Pablo, near the Majayojay Volcano, will be inaugurated on Wednesday, it was learned today.

The opening of the 40-kilometer railway segment is expected greatly to facilitate the transportation of copra from Lucena to Manila which hitherto has depended on trucks or water-buffalo drawn carts.

Mopping-Up Operation In Hungtse-hu Region Entirely Successful

At the Hungtse-hu front, December 19. The composite result scored by a certain unit of the Imperial Army during the past one month in its mopping-up operation against the Communist Army in the Hungtse-hu area is as follows: Enemy bodies left behind, 1,058; prisoners taken, 166; trophies, 2 bomb-guns, 3 light and heavy machine-guns, 843 rifles and many others; military and other establishments destroyed, 5 military installations, 2 training institutes, 3 arsenals and 2 clothing depots. It is further reported that as a result of the rural pacification movement, peace and order in the Japanese-occupied regions in the Hungtse-hu area have now been almost restored.

BOOKS ON HISTORY WANTED

Since Japan's occupation of Java, the native inhabitants are demand- the publication of books dealing with Indonesian history as no reliable works on Indonesian history were published while Java was under the control of the former Dutch East Indies authorities, the Asahi reported from Dyakarta, according to Domei.

In compliance with this request the Bureau of the National Library has published the first volume of a series of books on Indonesian History recently.

JAVANESE WILL FILL VITAL POSTS IN ISLE

Japanese Administration to Employ More Native People as High Officials

Domei

DYAKARTA. December 19.—The Japanese Military Administration recently published data concerning the present status of its administration in Java, and made clear the fact that the Administration intends to employ native inhabitants in importants posts in the island.

In order to encourage intellectual native youths to elevate their standing, the Administration gave statistics proving that under the old Netherlands regime, the Dutch authorities were averse to appointing the native inhabitants in important posts, at the same time announcing the intention of the Japanese Administration to employ more native inhabitants in high official positions.

The statistics cited under the former Dutch regime showed that Dutch administrators had strongly discriminated against the native people in the choice of high-ranking officers.

For instance, among technical experts the Dutch numbered 77 per cent in contrast to 20 per cent of natives inhabitants. In fiscal positions, the Dutch held 67 per cent

(Continued on Page 2)

PRES. WANG ARRIVES IN JAPAN TO DISCUSS VITAL PROBLEMS; SHIGEMITSU ALSO IN CAPITAL

Envoy Will Exchange Views With Authorities

RETURNED ON SUNDAY

People in China Look Forward To Important Results

Mamoru Shigemitsu, Japanese Ambassador to Nanking, arrived at Haneda airdrome from his post in the Chinese capital at 1:15 p.m. Sunday, only 35 minutes before the arrival of the Wang Ching-wei mission.

Ambassador Shigemitsu had been in Tokyo in November to make arrangements wtih the Government in connection with the establishment of the Ministry of Greater East Asiatic Affairs, when he conferred almost daily with Premier General Hideki Tojo, Foreign Minister Masayuki Tani, Minister of Greater East Asiatic Affairs Kazuo Aoki and other leaders of the Government and business magnates regarding the operation of various Japanese agencies in China after the establishment of the new Ministry and basic problems concerning Sino-Japanese cooperation for victory. He departed for his post on December 2 and immediately saw President Wang Ching-wei and other leaders of the Nanking Government, General Shunroku Hata. Commander of the Japanese Army in China, and other high officers. On December 17 and 18 he held a conference of the heads of all the Japanese official establishments in China including ministers and consuls and communicated to them the arrangements he had made in Tokyo, receiving in turn various information from these local leaders.

It is understood that Ambassador Shigemitsu's business in Tokyo this time is to conduct a more thorough and more detailed exchange of views with the home Government leaders and to transmit to them the views of the authorities on the spot. His visit is understood to promise some further development toward the strengthening of the Sino-Japanese cooperative structure.

Ambassador Shigemitsu is expected to return to his post within this year, concluding his contact with the various quarters concerned in Sino-Japanese relations.

It is reported by a Domei correspondent from Nanking that the Nanking authorities are looking forward to important results from Ambassador Shigemitsu's exchange

(Continued on Page 2)

Bright Dawn Breaks in Andamans Under Japanese Administration

Former British Penal Settlement in Indian Ocean Now Strategic Nippon Outpost—Islands Are Graphically Surveyed

The Andaman Island group which is an indispensable Japanese outpost in the Indian Ocean, is now being guarded by crack Japanese troops. Day and night they keep constant vigil over the air and on the sea. The islands were used as penal settlement during the British occupation, but under the guidance of the Japanese Administrators, the entire place is presenting a scene of happy resurrection. In a graphic survey of the islands sent by a member of the Naval Press Corps, from Port Blair he said:

The Andaman islands which are situated to the southeast of the Bay of Bengal, are divided into three parts, namely South, Middle and North Andamans, the total number of islets being about 240. The entire area covers over 2,500 square miles, and Port Blair which is in the South, is the most developed part of the group.

The Andaman islands are a solitary group in the Indian Ocean, surrounded by deep waters and frequented by monsoons. They are some 580 nautical miles off Penang (Malai), 360 miles off Rangoon, 680 miles from Calcutta, 260 miles from Sabang (Sumatra) and 820 miles from Colombo. Thus, it is noted that while the islands are not any farther, than two or three hundred nautical miles from the main military bases of Japanese occupied areas, they are not less than six to seven hundred miles from British bases like Calcutta and Ceylon.

Due to its isolated geographical position, the British had taken care to spend enormous amount of money to build defenses for it. It has be-

(Continued on Page 2)

CLOSER RELATIONS WITH JAPAN URGED

Governor-General Decoux Is Struck by Sincerity of Japanese Friendship

Domei

SAIGON, December 20.—Close economic, political and cultural cooperation between Japan and French Indo-China was stressed by Admiral Jean Decoux, the Governor-General of French Indo-China, in an address delivered at the preview of the Saigon Sample Fair which opened today, attended by many dignitaries representing French Indo-China and Japan, including Kenkichi Yoshizawa, Ambassador to Saigon.

"Although this fair is not international, Japan's acceptance of our invitation as well as generously providing a magnificent Japanese pavilion greatly enhances the exhibition," Admiral Decoux said.

"The strong bond of friendship existing between French Indo-China and Japan," the Governor-General declared, "has again been strengthened by the splendid gesture Japan has shown in cooperating with us to make this fair a success."

BRITAIN IS STUMPED OVER INDIA PROBLEM

Arrest of Indian Leaders Fell Short of Desired Effect—Only Increased Animosity

By Arrangement with the Asahi
(Special to the Japan Times Advertiser)

SHANGHAI, December 19.—Four and a half months have passed since Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and other Indian leaders of the Indian National Congress Party were arrested by the British authorities. Accompanying the increasing gravity of the world situation surrounding India, the internal conditions of the country have also been gradually mounting in ominosity, and is one of the most vexing problems of the Anglo-American camp.

When four and a half months ago the British Government, alarmed at the Indian situation, dispatched Sir Stafford Cripps to India to try to gain over the Indian leaders, the Japanese successes in the Southern Regions were already transforming the Indian Ocean from a British pond to a Japanese lake.

To Britain, the loss of India means the collapse of the main pillar of its empire, and the British Government, as a last resort, was compelled to carry out its master stroke, namely, the arrest of the Indian leaders.

Situation Grew Worse

But the situation, instead of growing better for Britain, became worse. This is due not only to the growing anti-British feeling in India, but also the unfavorable turn of world events where the British are concerned. The Indian problem has become, not an isolated difficulty for Britain, but one of the vital questions accompanying the world situation.

The importance of India to Britain and America at present lies in the fact that it forms the base for British operations in their attempts to recover Burma, besides being a vital intersection point of traffic with Chungking.

It is only by remaining in India that the British can effect any influence on Chungking or China, and if the British are forced to withdraw from India, it not only means that British operations against Japan in the Japanese-occupied territories are impossible, but also that British influence in Asia will come to an end.

The British Government, after much mental agony over the problem of appointing a successor to Lord Linlithgow, whose term of office as Viceroy of India was scheduled to expire by next April, finally extended his term of office to October. At the same time America sent a considerable army to Western India, appointing William Phillips as President Roosevelt's representive to maintain contact with the British authorities. All this is evidence that both America and Britain are

(Continued on Page 2)

Cooperation Between Two Countries to Be Strengthened

EPOCH-MAKING VISIT

Conference With Premier Tojo Will Be Held From December 23

Accompanied by high officials of the National Government of China, President Wang Ching-wei arrived in Tokyo Sunday to extend his felicitations for the brilliant victories amassed by the Japanese Forces in the current War of Greater East Asia and, at the same time, to discuss with the Japanese authorities the possibility of achieving even closer collaboration between Japan and the Republic of China.

On December 22 President Wang is scheduled to proceed to the Imperial Palace and from the following day will confer with Premier General Hideki Tojo and other prominent officials of the Japanese Government.

The announcement of the visit of President Wang Ching-wei and his suite was made by the Board of Information on Sunday as follows:

"Taking the opportunity of the first anniversary of the opening of the War of Greater East Asia, Wang Ching-wei, President of the National Government of the Republic of China and concurrently President of the Executive Yuan, left Nanking on December 19 by the airplane Haichien and arrived at the Haneda Airport at 1:50 p.m. Sunday. This visit is for the purpose of expressing congratulations on Japan's brilliant victories and, at the same time, of exchanging views and opinions with high Japanese officials with the view to rendering still closer the cooperation between Japan and the Republic of China.

"On December 22, Mr. Wang will visit the Imperial Palace in his capacity as President of the National Government, and from the 23rd will confer with the Prime Minister and other high officials in his capacity as President of the Executive Yuan.

"Mr. Wang's party includes Chou Fo-hai, Vice President of the Executive Yuan and concurrently Minister of Finance; Chu Min-yi, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Mei Hsu-ping, Minister of Commerce and Industry; Lin Pai-sheng, Minister of Publicity; General Hsiao Chu-hsuan, Chairman of the Supreme Military Council; and about ten others."

To Meet Tojo

President Wang Ching-wei proceeded from the Haneda airdrome to the detached official residence of Premier Tojo in Hiroo-cho, Azabu-ku, where he spent his first night in Japan.

At 1 p.m. Monday he is scheduled to attend an informal meeting at the official residence of the Greater East Asia Minister sponsored by the Minister after which he will call on Premier Tojo.

Left in 2 Planes

Domei

NANKING, December 19.—In order to tender his congratulations in person to leaders of the Japanese Government and people on the occasion of the first anniversary of the War of Greater East Asia and to discuss with them the basic steps for all-out cooperation between Japan and China for victory, Wang Ching-wei, President of the Chinese Republic and concurrently President of the Executive Yuan, accompanied by Foreign Minister Chu Min-yi and other National Government lead-

(Continued on Page 2)

Air-Raid Siren Test Slated Noon Today Throughout Japan

The air-raid sirens throughout Japan will undergo a test at noon today, it is announced. At the appointed time the first warning will go off, lasting for six seconds, to be followed, at the interval of three seconds, by another one. Three minutes later, the all-clear signal will be sounded, for the duration of one minute.

Three Cartoons From Burma

The above, which appeared in poster form in the streets of Burma, eloquently bespeaks of the utter contempt which the people of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere now hold for both America and Britain. Left: The British Bulldog and Uncle Sam are seen sitting pretty on top of the world, or so they think, while the East Asians, under their oppressive rule are delegated to the most precarious position. That was how matters stood prior to the outbreak of the War of Greater East Asia. Middle: Then lo and behold! the tables were turned when a stalwart of the Rising Sun appears on the scene to right an obvious wrong. The united struggle by the East Asians was brief and the British Bulldog and Uncle Sam are seen executing a helpless tumble toward their doom. Right: General rejoicings follow, and old man Sun, who has closely watched the proceedings with his age-old wisdom, joins in the celebration by lifting up his face to bellow with laughter.

NEW DAWN BREAKS ON ANDAMAN ISLE

(Continued from Page 1)

come doubly important now under the occupation of Japanese, as it forms a military outpost of the Southern Regions of Japan. In fact, the semi-circle line connecting the Nicobar islands and Sabang (Sumatra) is a life-line for the defense of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, and hence has to serve as a checkmate to any threat coming from the west.

The total population of Port Blair is about 25,000, of which 80 per cent are Indians, while the rest consist of Burmese, Chinese and the native islanders. These Indians and Burmese are either those that have been sentenced for life by the Government of India for penal servitude, or those that are descendants of men who had been sent earlier as such. However, the islands were being administered by the Government of India, whose representative had his headquarters in Port Blair, from where he controlled the whole group.

The Andaman Islands are full of jungles, so thickly wooded that the sun's rays have never penetrated to the ground. As a result, one finds the place always dark, damp and cold, and a perpetual moss covers the surface of the ground. The trees are huge and tall, seldom less than 100 feet in height; they shoot fresh roots downward from their branches, so much so all these roots grow into so many pillars for the tree, thus spreading the area of the trees wider and wider. In spite of the closeness of the jungles, no harmful wild animals are found except wild boars, cats, lizards and snowy herons. If one were to roam into the jungle, he may unexpectedly come across embers of campfire or stumps of newly cut trees. Sometimes, smouldering pieces of wood can be discovered. Even then, there is no likelihood of seeing any human being. Weird silence, as it were reign throughout the jungles.

12 Tribes Exist

The native inhabitants of Andamans are of 12 tribes, of which Jawala and Ondar are considered to be ferocious. These two tribes are even said to be cannibals, though no positive evidence has yet been found to substantiate it. However, in 1908, some British mariners who drifted to the islands after a shipwreck, were said to have been cruelly massacred by these mountain inhabitants. It was not seldom that villagers who had strayed into the jungle and lost their way were also murdered by them.

The Jawalas are short in stature and quick in action. They show it to a great advantage when they shoot poisoned arrows, which is their main weapon against enemies. They are very revengeful too, which make them all the more dangerous with their poisoned arrows. In Port Blair city, there is a Jawala woman and her two children living, who, however, are belying all the story said about the tribe. Because, except that they are extremely dark in complexion, there is no particular ferocity about them. In any case, the native inhabitants live in the interior of the jungles, and come to town with swallow nests to exchange them for rice.

Having been a penal settlement for a long time, the Andaman Islands are known as the islands of criminals. In Port Blair there is a star-shaped, large-sized prison building built in 1912. Over 400 Indian and Burmese prisoners were found confined in it at the time of the Japanese occupation. At present, they are all free, having been let off by the victorious Japanese Forces. They are, however, cooperating with the latter in the reorganization of the islands.

Stayed After Release

Formerly, many of the criminals volunteered to remain on the island even after the expiry of their terms, and their descendants too continued to live there. Out of 6,000 such ex-convicts 4,000 were exiled by law, but the rest are those who have volunteered to stay on there.

The peculiar system of settlement that attracted the convicts to continue to remain on the island was that they, after compulsory periods of manual labor for the first three months in Port Blair prison, were transferred to the criminals' colony where they were allowed to take up any industrial activity on a monthly salary of 10 rupees. After the expiry of their terms of sentence, they were allowed to follow any vocation they liked on the islands. Also, the social treatment given to the convicts proved to be more congenial for them on the islands.

Till some years ago, political convicts from India and Burma used to be exiled to Andamans. The Government of India stopped that practice lately. In fact, in 1939, almost all the political offenders were retransferred to India, when many of them resisted the British authorities by resorting to hunger-strike. Consequently, only such criminals as are convicted for manslaughter remained on the island.

One other batch which was sent back to India in February this year, consisted of Indian soldiers who had refused to carry out the orders of their superiors in Shanghai and Egypt. Many of the prisoners who did not brook to the authorities under any circumstances were sent to the gallows, which has made the island a place of poignant human tragedies.

In the new atmosphere, under the Japanese occupation, a spirit of freedom and joy is growing among the released prisoners, which is conducive to a successful reconstruction of the islands.

People Now Happy

A piece of eulogy in praise of the Japanese officers and men is a case in instance which shows the trust and faith in which they are being held by the islanders. The lines referred to are: "Japan is most suited to be called the land of the Rising Sun. Not very many days have elapsed since we have come under the control of the Japanese, but those few days were enough to bring us back light and happiness."

The Andaman Islands were occupied by the Japanese Army on March 23, and since then they have been under the Japanese Military Administration. A few days after the occupation of the islands by the Japanese Forces a notification was put up in every corner of the islands which stated that every one was requested to enhance courage and cooperate in developing agriculture, fishery and industries, pointing out that it was a great shame for anybody to live in idleness. This created a sensation among the inhabitants, and they looked stupefied and bewildered at first, having never been accustomed to work for their living.

Self-sufficiency in foodstuffs being the first aim of the Japanese policy of reconstruction, the military officers and men launched a suitable plan making it incumbent on all the inhabitants to cooperate in the scheme. It was impossible to provide all the islanders with sufficient rice out of the little quantity which was being grown on the island. The Japanese Navy commander related without reserve to the gathering of prominent natives, how urgent it was to cultivate wasteland, and to increase foodstuff production. They were told to courageously meet the demands of labor, and the men of the Japanese Forces chose a plot of land for themselves to do the job.

A special training was conducted attended by 21 native youths who represented various towns and villages. They were trained by the Japanese agricultural technicians in the true spirit of labor and according to up-to-date methods. These men were sent back to villages to coach the villagers in the same art, so much so, according to a report of August, all villages reaped good harvests, and additional lands were also cultivated. It is expected that, before long, foodstuff production in Andamans will reach the required scale.

Aside from agricultural question, the question of salt-production is also important for Andamans; because elephants which are employed in the timber industry require salt. An up-to-date method of salt manufacture was introduced by the Japanese authorities, with the result that the salt problem has also been solved.

Regarding timber industry, which has the largest scope on the island, it still awaits tackling. Out of a forest area of 1,800 square miles, only 14 square miles were utilized so far; but even this area is so thickly wooded that the timber produced within it was sufficient to cover the expenses of administration of all the islands. The British soldiers, before retreating, had destroyed the timber manufacturing factories, and driven away some hundred trained elephants into the depths of jungles, with the idea of dislocating the whole industry. However, thanks to the diligent efforts of the Japanese, the factories were soon rebuilt and the elephants recaptured. Within 18 days of the occupation of the islands by the Japanese, they began to hum once again with industrial activities. At present a large quantity of timber is being exported to Shonan, for rebuilding the destroyed areas there. An additional industry in this line is that of match-splints which are being produced on a large scale. By the end of July, over 10,000 bags (each bag containing 85 pounds) of match-splints were ready for export.

The importance of these islands for fishery industry needs mention. The varieties available are such as tuna, saury-pikes, crabs, lobsters, grey mullets, scade and others, and they are found in large quantity. Being coached by expert Japanese fishermen, the native people are fast acquiring the technique. Before long, when they learn it fully, they will not fail to transform the island into one of the largest fishery grounds in the world.

Coolies Clear Jungles

The textile manufacturing is also being encouraged on the island, specially through women labor. Coolies are being employed to clear the jungles and to cleanse the residential districts. Steps are also being taken to stamp out malaria and other epidemics. A general study of the islands indicates that the reconstruction work is fast speeding up, and according to recent investigation all adults, both men and women, are engaged in regular vocation.

The Japanese troops who are firmly determined to do their utmost for the defense of the islands are training themselves day and night. For the last half year, since the occupation of the islands by the Japanese, the enemy is carrying on guerilla attacks, by water and by air. But they had no chance of success in the face of the Japanese troops.

With regard to the life of the soldiers on the island, they are of varying types. In their spare time they enjoy themselves by fishing or catching big tortoises. They also teach Japanese songs to native children. They are sometimes entertained with native dances and songs. The beautiful landscape around Port Blair offers them relief from lonliness, and and is pleasing to the eye. Both the Japanese troops and the islanders wait eagerly for the 8th of every month for the celebration of the Imperial Rescript Observance Day. On that day the military review is held regularly, and the native spectators are entertained with performances of fencing, wrestling, and bayonet exercises. On these occasions the natives are seen gazing open-mouthed at the superior technique of the performers, and the sublime spirit of "Bushido."

On September 8, the Andaman Shrine which was under construction for some time was completed. The shrine constructing corps which consisted of representatives from each unit dedicated their entire time for the construction. They purified themselves through ablutions, and obtained necessary trees from the depth of virgin forests. The shrine has been built on the top of a small hill in the vicinity of Port Blair. The approach to the shrine was constructed through the willing labor of the natives. The soldiers visit the shrine in the mornings and in the evenings, and solemnly pledge their service to the State, and their determination to crush the American and British forces. On the Andaman Islands, the Japanese Naval Ensign is waving proudly overlooking the surging waves of the Indian Ocean.

Neutrality-Killer

England Bombed

Domei

BERLIN, December 19.—A German bomber formation raided the southern coast of England on December 18 and bombed Eastbourne, Hastings and other cities from a low altitude, inflicting heavy damages.

It is further reported that on the afternoon of December 18 a German pursuit plane found a formation of British planes comprising Boeing fighter planes and Whitney bombers over the Bay of Biscay and after giving it a chase at high speed, downed 3 planes.

ENVOY SHIGEMITSU RETURNS TO CAPITAL

(Continued from Page 1)

of views in Tokyo in view of the firm resolve he is known to entertain in regard to a complete and decisive settlement of the China problem through accelerated strengthening of the structure and political status of the National Government.

Calls on Wang

Ambassador Shigemitsu called on President Wang Ching-wei at 2:30 p.m. at the detached official residence of the Premier in Azabu and had a ten-minute talk with him. Then he proceeded to the official residence of the Greater East Asia Minister in Mita, where he conferred with Foreign Minister Masayuki Tani and Greater East Asia Minister Kazuo Aoki for about an hour and a half. After the three-men conference, the Ambassador went to the official residence of the Foreign Minister with Mr. Tani. There the two held an exclusive conversation after dinner.

As Mr. Shigemitsu had exchanged views with the authorities of the Ministry of Greater East Asiatic Affairs and other Government members when he returned to Tokyo in November, and has come to Tokyo again after carefully listening to the views of the various agencies in China, it is generally believed that his business in the capital is to make arrangements for concrete measures aimed at consolidating the ties between China and Japan. It is expected, therefore, that the outcome of his conversations will be to clarify and strengthen the various policies pursued between Tokyo and Nanking.

Wang Ching-Wei Arrives in Japan

(Continued from Page 1)

ers and retinue, left here today for Japan on his historic mission.

The weather was ideal for avlation with the mild winter sun free of clouds when the Wang Ching-wei Mission departed from the Nanking airdrome. At the airdrome to see them off were Home Minister Chen Chun, Education Minister Li Sheng-wu, Tateki Horiuchi, Japanese Minister to China, Lieutenant-General Torashiro Kawabe, chief of general staff, National Defense General Headquarters, Lu Yung-huan, Manchoukuo Ambassador to Nanking, the German Ambassador, the Italian Ambassador and numerous other notables. President Wang Ching-wei arrived at the airfield with the members of his suite at 10 a.m. by motor-cars. After shaking hands with Minister Horiuchi, Lieutenant-General Kawabe and others, he boarded the presidential plane, while members of the suite entered a second plane. At 1:10 a.m. the two aircraft took off for Japan.

MILITARY ADMINISTRATION IN JAVA HOLDS 1ST MEETING

Domei

DYAKARTA, December 20.—The Java Military Administration held its first meeting this morning at its headquarters, attended by approximately 80 administrative leaders including 19 provincial governors.

At the outset of the meeting Lieutenant-General Hitoshi Imamura, Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese forces in Java, and the Chief of the Military Administration delivered addresses. Following the addresses, reports were given by the Chief of the General Affairs Bureau and each of the provincial governors on matters under their jurisdiction.

The meeting will be resumed tomorrow when the latest development in international affairs will be discussed.

SOVIETS TRANSFER INDUSTRIES TO URAL

(Continued From Page 1)

ing new foundries in the new center, and encouraging the production of iron by announcing the daily output.

Many technical difficulties, however, face the government attempt to increase the production of iron. The lack of sufficient funds and materials is one, while the low efficiency of the workers which has been estimated to be only one-third of the American workers is another.

2. The Coal Industry:

The 1938 coal output of the Soviet Union, classified by district, is as follows:

(in 1,000 tons)

Donetz Basin	78,300
Kuzbas	16,800
Hakkas	855
Moskva	7,400
Karaganda	4,550
Ural	8,060
East Siberia	3,640

A glance at the foregoing list shows that the loss of the Donetz Basin is a fatal blow to the Soviet Union. Owing to the loss of 58.9 per cent of the total output of coal, the Soviet Union is now compelled to depend upon Kuzbas, Hakkas, Karaganda, Ural, East Siberia, and others for its coal.

In the Soviet Union, a large quantity of coal is in demand by various industries, transportation facilities, vessels, heating, electric generation and others. Even in the pre-war days, it was reported that the Soviet Union was suffering from coal shortage.

The loss of the Donetz region, the shifting of the major domestic industries to the east of the Ural Mountains and the current war have been the main factor for the gradual increase in demand for coal in the Soviet Union.

In the Soviet Union, where the temperature is 40 degrees below zero in the winter, no one can make a living should there be a shortage of coal.

Thus, it can be easily understood why the Soviet authorities are making desperate efforts to increase the output of coal.

3. The Petroleum Industry:

The same thing can be said with petroleum as in the case of coal. Petroleum resources in Azerbaijan, inclusive of Baku in the Caucasus, amounts to only 29 per cent of the total petroleum resources of the Soviet Union. However, the 1938 production of petroleum in that district aggregated 24,000,000 tons or corresponded to 74.5 per cent of the total oil production of the Soviet Union for that year.

On the contrary, petroleum resources so far discovered in the Ural-Volga oil zone, which is commonly called the second Baku, amounts to 60 per cent of the total oil resources in the Soviet Union while the 1938 production in that zone totaled only 6.5 per cent of the Soviet oil output in that year. At present, the Soviet Union, although it lost Maikop in the Northern Caucasus, still holds the major part of the Caucasian oil-fields.

However, it should be noted that the German forces are in the vicinity of Grozny, while Baku, the most important oil-producing center in the Soviet Union, is already within bombing range of the Luftwaffe.

Further note should be taken that the Baku oil-fields have already entered the last stage, and the Soviet authorities are known to be planning to increase the production in the Ural-Volga oil zone to a total corresponding to 21.8 per cent of the total Soviet oil output by 1942.

For this purpose, the Soviet Government started the erection of a giant refinery in Ufa, the center of the second Baku in 1938.

The swift development of the Soviet-German war situation has already made it difficult for the Soviet Government to make smooth transportation of Baku oil. Under the circumstances, the Soviet Government naturally has been engrossed in developing oil resources in districts east of Ural.

Despite the wartime situation, therefore, the Soviet Government has dispatched large-scale exploitation parties to those oil districts, and has demanded oil-refining equipments from the United States as part of the Lease-Lend program.

4. The Fishing Industry:

The commencement of efforts to develop the fishing industry dates from 1930 or thereabouts when the country was liberated from the severe famine occurring after the October Revolution. The development was rapid and in 1938, the Soviet Union became the second largest fishing country in the world next to Japan. Marine products at present account for a high percentage of the foodstuff resources of the Soviet Union.

The German-Soviet war, however, has produced an important effect upon the fishing industry of the Soviet Union. The advance of the German-Finnish forces to the Kola Peninsula, coupled with the activity of the German navy in the Varanger Fiord area, has interrupted the Soviet fishing operations in Murmansk and vicinity. The Soviet fishing operations in the Caspian Sea also have been endangered as the result of the eastward development of the military operations.

Under the circumstances, the Soviet Union is now concentrating its efforts on the fishing operations in the East Asiatic waters. In this region, where catches amounted to slightly less than 4,060,000 tons during 1937, there are located the trust fishing grounds, with hundreds of thousands of people being employed. The Soviet authorities have removed numerous fishermen to this region from the Murmansk and Caspian sectors.

5. The Agricultural Industry:

Agriculture in the Soviet Union also has been affected to a considerable extent by the German-Soviet war. One of the important problems connected with agriculture is that a large number of farmers have evacuated the European section of the country to seek shelter in the district east of Ural. Another important problem is that labor service of older men, women and children has to be enlisted for the cultivation of waste land as the youths have been mobilized to work in munition factories.

Still another problem which exercises far-reaching influence upon the agriculture in the Soviet Union is that the bulk of tractors and other farming implements were held in the European section of the country and a large quantity must be considered lost as the result of the war. To make matters worse, Rostov and Kharkov, both manufacturing centers of farming machinery, have been taken by the Germans.

6. Other Industries:

The production of copper in the Soviet Union is characterized by a deficiency. One of the most difficult problems is connected with rubber. As rubber plantations are not to be found in the country, the Soviet authorities are paying special attention to the production of synthetic rubber. In this connection, too, the Soviet Union suffers badly from the German-Soviet war inasmuch as nearly 86 per cent of the chemical factories in the country are located west of Ural, and deficiency in industrial salt and electricity characterizes the conditions prevailing east of Ural.

It is under no circumstance impossible for the Soviet Union to increase its national power in the eastern section of the country. From the standpoint of resources, it may be said that further expansion of the national power of the Soviet Union is bound to be conducted in the eastern section of the country. The outbreak of hostilities has rendered it necessary for the Soviet authorities to hasten the industrial development of the eastern section of the country on a much larger scale than would be required otherwise.

Such being the case, the question is whether or not it would be possible for the Soviet authorities to attain their objective within a short period of time. In this connection, it may be observed that it took about 15 years for the Soviet Union to foster its national power as it stood prior to the outbreak of war. During this period, the Soviet Union was under quite favorable conditions for industrial development, with more than enough materials and skilled labor.

The conditions now are entirely different. It is difficult it obtain either materials or skilled labor. The only advantage of the Soviets in this connection lies in the experiences and technical improvements which they have achieved since 1928. It is interesting to watch the actual outcome of the effort of the Soviet authorities to promote the industrial development of the eastern section of the country under these circumstances.

Press Comments

Sunday, December 20, 1942

ASAHI—Success in Economic Warfare

Success in Economic Warfare

ASAHI—It was the end of last May when the American Government placed restrictions on the extension of factories, besides stressing the manufacture of only those articles defined by the Government.

One of the reasons, as the American papers pointed out, was the necessity of increasing the production of the present rather than the ensuring of the increased production of the future.

From about this time, the production activity of America became feverish, showing all the signs of the feverishness of a country actively participating in war, whereas hitherto the signs had been those of a country which might become involved in war.

In October America set foot on West Africa, and in November in North Africa. From August, in the Southwest Pacific, she has been making sporadic but desperate offensives.

All this points to the fact that America has lost confidence in herself in carrying out a long-term war. She has emerged from her web of blockading, and is trying to take the offensive. In short, she is trying for a decisive battle with Japan.

The enemy is concentrating his total strength in the Solomons fighting. The peculiar character of the enemy offensive is that, whilst on the one hand, the enemy is loud in proclaiming that he will win a long-term war, on the other his offensive has all the figure marks of a short-term, decisive war.

When a country is at war it is natural that its economic structure should veer from the normal. But at the same time it is the hope of such a country that after the war its economic structure will return to normalcy again.

Considering the present economic conditions in America, however, it is plain that its economic structure can never return to normal. But the problem does not end here. It is vital for America that she should win today's battle, tomorrow's battle, in short, all her battles.

Recent reports indicate that the British people are beginning to believe that the mutual association with America will spell disaster for the economic structure of both countries. But it must not be simply deduced from this that America will sever her relations with Britain. Disregarding the personal feelings of the Britishers, America will drag Britain with her for that decisive battle with Japan which is so essential to her very existence.

First Anniversary Of Japan-Thai Pact To Be Feted Today

(Continued From Page 1)

relations have gone on increasing in strength and amity.

With the help of Thailand, the victory of the Japanese Forces is clearer than ever, and the defeat of the enemy inevitable.

Pact Celebrations Set

By Arrangement with the Asahi

(Special to the Japan Times Advertiser)

BANGKOK, December 19.—Gigantic celebrations are scheduled to be held on December 21, the first anniversary of the Japan-Thai Defensive and Offensive Alliance, in both Tokyo and Bangkok, for further enhancing Japan-Thai relations. The person who is expected to be most moved on this occasion Premier Pibul Songgram the "Father of Thailand."

In Thailand, Premier Pibul is not only just a premier. On the front pages of Thai newspapers are printed the following:

The Country: Thailand
Leader: Premier Pibul Songgram
Objective: Victory

The Thai papers of August, which commemorated the birthday of Premier Pibul, declared that Pibul Songgram was a leader in every sense of the word.

Premier Pibul is also called the "Father of Thailand." His estimation in the people's eyes increased with the outbreak of the War of Greater East Asia. Every shop and every house is adorned with a picture of Premier Pibul. In all theaters and cinema halls, the audience is first shown a picture of Premier Pibul on the screen, which every one salutes at attention, before the show begins. On July 14 the whole Thai nation celebrated the 45th birthday of their Premier. Beneath the national flag, which flew on the roof of every house in the country, was the bird emblem of Premier Pibul, and the expression, "Hail Pibul" came into existence.

Premier Pibul is dearly beloved by all the people, and at the same time he commands their respect.

Effective Raid Made

Domei

ROME, December 19.—The Italian High Command today announced the following communique:

"On December 18, an Italian air unit severely raided the enemies in the Mejes el Bab area on the Tunisian front.

"In an aerial combat over the mid-Mediterranean an Axis air unit downed 14 enemy planes.

"Four enemy planes which raided the Tunisian area were shot down by an Axis anti-aircraft battery."

BRITAIN IS STUMPED OVER INDIA PROBLEM

(Continued From Page 1)

exerting their utmost to maintain a hold on India.

In India itself, however, the general situation has only turned for the worse for the Anglo-American camp. Centering round Bombay, there have been widespread anti-British and anti-American movements which have continued to increase in violence. The fundamental causes of the worsening of the Indian situation may be attributed to the following three causes:

1. Operations of the Indian National Congress Party in the background.

As Linlithgow admitted in a recent speech, the Congress Party, though small in number, is a powerful body influencing the whole of Indian thought, and its anti-British and anti-American movements are nation-wide. Moreover, popular Indian sympathy for the Indian leaders, Gandhi and the others, have increased with the passing of the days. This is one of the strongest reasons for the success of the Congress Party's operations.

2. Worsening of the food situation.

Hitherto, India has not been a self-sufficing country, and large quantities of rice were annually imported from Burma. But Burma is now completely cut off from India, and this, coupled with the scarcity of British and American bottoms, which prevents any importation of food from Australia, has brought about a serious food scarcity in India. Prices have gone up as a consequence, and the living conditions of the people have become immensely difficult. The British attempts to recover Burma are a sort of gesture toward the Indian people, and it is probable that such attempts will increase in frequency as the internal situation of India grows worse.

3. Endeavors of patriots outside the country.

The spirited endeavors of Indian patriots who are living outside the country have come to the ears of the Indian people at home, and are no small stimulus toward their rise for an India for the Indians. Due to the vigilant censorship of the British officials, it is not possible to obtain full details of the reactions of the Indians toward their patriots' endeavors.

Thus, due to internal and external factors, the Indian situation has become extremely complicated, and for the present, taking into account the general world situation, the solution of these problems is yet not within sight.

The extension of Linlithgow's term of office is an admission on the part of the British Government that it has no new plan, for the present, for the solution of the Indian problem.

The British difficulty has been increased by the dispatch of William Phillips from America, which is another sign of American encroachment on British India, and by the strengthening of Soviet influence in India.

The Indian Communist party has received permission to recommence its activities, and the Tass news agency has opened its branches in all the chief towns for the dissemination of Soviet propaganda. The Indian situation, therefore, demands that it be viewed with greater attention than before.

Javanese Will Fill Vital Posts in Isle

(Continued From Page 1)

against 30 per cent of natives. In central Government offices, the Dutch officials occupied 84 per cent of the important posts, while only 16 per cent were given to the native inhabitants.

The statistics clearly indicate that all commanding positions were held by the Dutch, while the native inhabitants were given only petty posts.

Science Inquiry Council

Domei

PEKING, December 18.—The inauguration ceremony of the Science and Cultural Inquiry Council, established by the North China Political Commission, for renovation of education in North China, was held at the East Asia Cultural Council in the West City today, attended by Wang I-tang, chairman, and other leaders of the North China Political Commission.

NOTICE

On the occasion of the New Year Celebrations, foreign gentlemen possessing Japanese Orders of the 1st class will be granted audience, and those possessing Orders from the 2nd class to the 6th (inclusive) will be admitted to sign their names in the Visitors' Book at the Imperial Palace.

They are requested to send in their names and addresses, indicating the class of the Orders conferred upon them (those possessing Orders of the 3rd class and upwards to send in the names of their wives also), to the Board of Ceremonies (Sikibusyoku) not later than the 26th instant.

THE BOARD OF CEREMONIES
(Sikibusyoku),
The 21st December, 17th year of Syowa.

EXPLOITS OF OTANI IN BATTLE PRAISED

Captain Met Heroic Death After Engaging Enemy in Skies Over Chittagong

After successfully commanding his daring air unit in furious dogfights with enemy planes in the skies of Chittagong on the India-Burma border on December 5 and 10, Captain Masuo Otani met a gallant death by blasting himself and his plane. Paying special tribute to the memory of this brave flying officer, his men described the spectacular aerial encounter and the golden character of their late Commander to a Nichi Nichi reporter in Burma. The latter's dispatch follows:

The courageous spirit of the men of the Imperial Air Force is attributable to the traditional love of the "Parent Eagles" for their "Eaglets," and the respect of the Eaglets for their Parent Eagles. On December 5, the Otani Unit attacked Chittagong and scored brilliant results. Again on December 10, another raid was carried out, climaxed by a furious aerial combat.

The members of the Unit, recalling the deep sympathy and courage of their deceased commander, remarked:

"Our Unit was previously under the command of the late Major-General Tateo Kato, Hero-God of the Air. The late Major-General left behind him a sacred tradition of valor and gallantry.

"When attacking Chittagong, we sighted five or six enemy fighter planes. Undauntedly, we immediately pounced on these craft. One of them was immediately riddled with bullets, and sent plunging to its doom. The remaining planes, frightened by our fierce attack, fled in confusion.

"Lieutenant Koichi Mori, who had shot the enemy plane, followed it and made certain that it plunged into the sea. In this manner, this brave flier faithfully lived up to the spirit left with us by the late Major-General Kato, who met his valiant death in the Bay of Bengal.

"As he began to gain altitude once again, the wireless gave us the warm message, 'Well-done, Mori. You have done it! Congratulations.' These encouraging words had been sent by our commander, and his sincere concern for his men impressed us greatly.

"Shortly after, however, we sighted the commander's plane descending speedily, and in the next moment, we realized that he was carrying out self-destruction.

"Captain Otani was very fond of music, and often played his shakuhachi. He was also quite a sportsman, having been an excellent baseball player. He was loved by the late Major-General Kato, and true to the traditional spirit of the Unit, was concerned with the welfare of his men to the last minute."

The men of the Otani Unit, although stricken with sorrow over the death of their beloved commander, are exerting their utmost efforts to live up to the valorous spirit bequeathed by their two late commanders.

Manchou Progress Wins Admiration

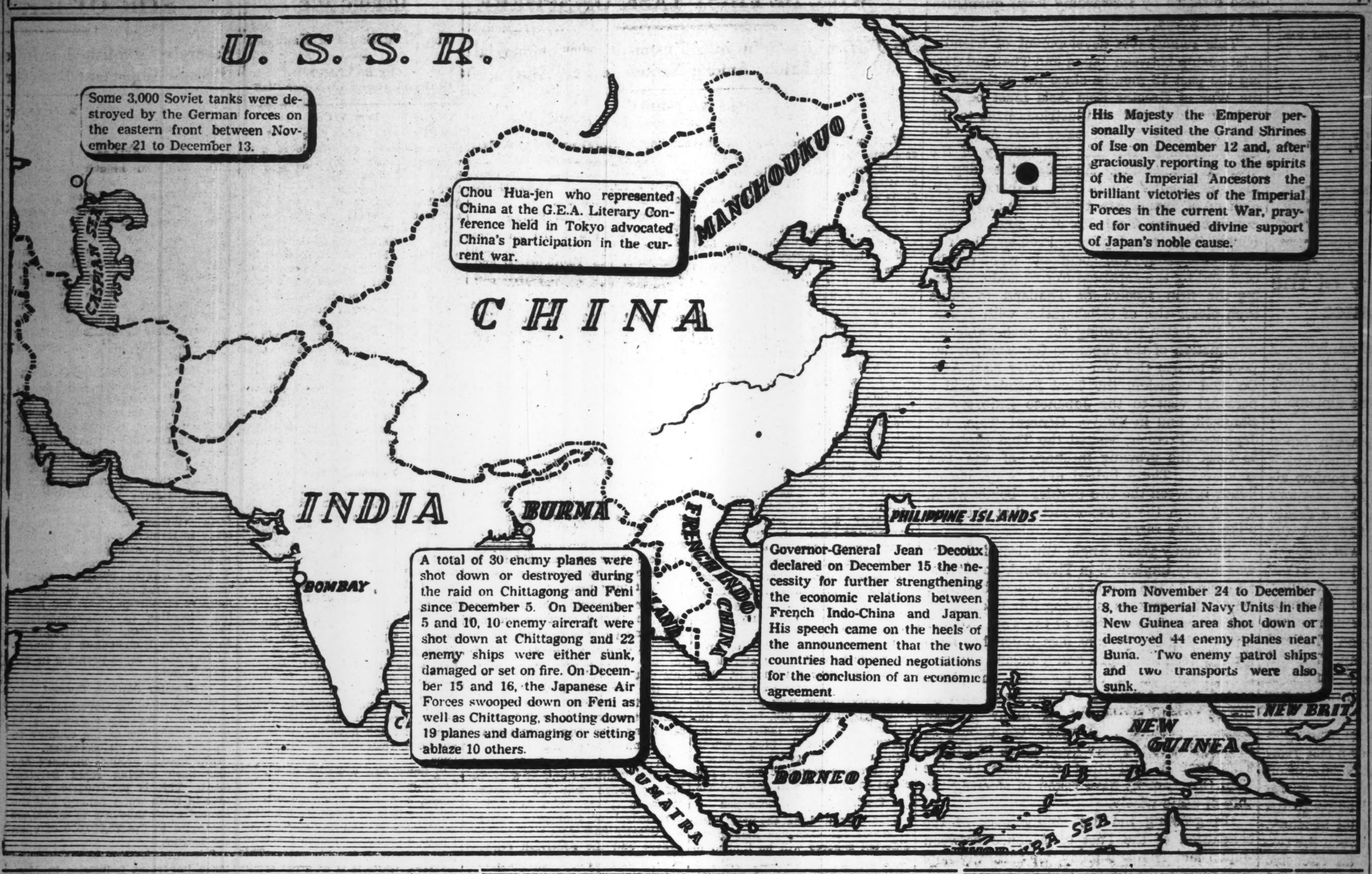
(Continued From Page 4)

Buddhist and other religious bodies have been cooperating with it in the work for the uplifting of the spiritual life of the people.

It appears that the development of Manchoukuo during the past 10 years has been smooth and without serious difficulties. The determination and enthusiasm with which Japan guided this country is responsible to a great extent for what it is today. On September 15, 1932, Japan recognized the new state and at the same time signed the treaty of defensive alliance. By taking these steps, Japan shouldered a great responsibility for the maintenance of peace and order in Manchoukuo. In March of the following year, Japan by withdrawing from the League of Nations resolutely demonstrated to the world its determination to bring up the new state to full independence.

Since March, 1934, Manchoukuo has been recognized by more than 10 foreign nations including Japan, Salvador, Italy, Spain, Germany, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Finland, Thailand and Denmark. In 1939, it participated in the anti-comintern pact and cast its lot with the Axis Powers. In 1940, when Japan and China signed the Basic Treaty, the Manchoukuo Government dispatched its senior statesman to Nanking to participate in the ceremony. In appreciation of this move on the part of Manchoukuo Government, the National Government of China sent its good-will envoy to Hsinking. In May, this year, President Wang Ching-wei of China personally visited Hsinking to promote friendly relations. It is seen that Manchoukuo has not only become securely established as an independent state but has become an important base for the realisation of New Order in Greater East Asia.

WHERE WORLD ATTENTION WAS FOCUSED LAST WEEK



THE PAST WEEK IN REVIEW

Japan's Mastery of the Air Proved

Further proof of Japan's control of the skies above the Southern Regions came into the form of three announcements by the Imperial Headquarters last week. The first revealed that Army planes on December 5 and 10 raided the port of Chittagong, in the Bay of Bengal, shooting down 10 enemy planes (three of which are uncertain), sinking 7 ships, scoring direct hits on railway stations, wharves and warehouses and burning one railway train. Furthermore, 10 ships were heavily or otherwise damaged and 4 or 5 set afire. The second communique revealed that 44 enemy warplanes were either shot down or destroyed by Imperial Navy Air Units during the 15 days up to December 8 in the eastern districts of New Guinea. During the same period, the Japanese planes sank two enemy patrol ships and two transports. The third communique, issued late in the week, stated that Japanese Army Air Units in the Burma Area either shot down or destroyed aground 29 enemy planes on December 15 and 16 besides inflicting heavely damaging military facilities at Chittagong and Feni.

Meanwhile, in a surprise raid carried out on Kweilin, Kiangsi Province, on December 15, Army warplanes bombed and destroyed four large-sized enemy planes which had so far surivived the recent terrific attacks on the enemy air force.

From all the above attacks, which resulted in the loss of 87 warplanes for the enemy, Japan lost only 16 machines either self-blasted or not yet returned.

Rites for 47 Ronin Observed

An endless stream of people from all the walks of life from early in the morning on December 14 made their way to the Sengakuji Temple in Shiba to pay tribute anew to the memory of the 47 Ronin of "Chushingura" fame, who 241 years ago on that day revenged the disgrace suffered by their lord at the hands of a villanous official. Their feat in the face of great obstacles has been regarded through generations as representing the true Bushido spirit. Meanwhile, following a ceremony commemorating the feat of the 47 loyal retainers at the temple, a mass meeting was held at the Hibiya Public Hall. Among those present at the meeting were General Georges Bagulesco, Rumanian Minister to Tokyo, Lieutenant-General Yoshitsugu Tatekawa, former Ambassador to the Soviet Union, and other notables.

Security Exchanges to Be Unified

Aimed at the smooth circulation of necessary funds under current war requirements, the Cabinet on December 16 decided on a radical change affecting the system of listing securities on the exchange. Some salient points in the projected new system are: (1) Eleven security exchanges now scattered throughout the country will be merged into the new organization which has been tentatively named the Nippon Securities Exchange, which will have some provincial branches. (2) Members of the new exchange will be limited to firms operated as judicial persons. Memberships will not be allowed individuals. (3) All securities to be listed on the market shall have official approval. (4) Official members of the exchange will be appointed by the Government.

The Government, it is expected, will submit the draft Law for the new organization to the forthcoming session of the Imperial Diet.

Britain Experiencing Cold Winter

Due to the shortage of labor and the inefficiency of the system of distribution, the shortage of coal in Britain is becoming more and more acute and the British press has expressed a most pessimistic view regarding the outlook of the fuel problem. Britishers are indeed facing a cold and cheerless winter.

A national coal committee with Lloyd George has been formed but no prompt solution of the issue can be expected as since the start of the current war, the amount of coal production has rapidly decreased and this year's output was only 200,000,000 tons.

Chekiang-Kiangsi Line Reopened

Thanks to the wholehearted cooperation of the Japanese and Chinese organs concerned, the railway service linking Chekiang and Kiangsi was reopened last week following appropriate inauguration ceremonies held at the Kinhwa Station. The reconstructed railway line is expected to help greatly in developing the mining industries in eastern Chekiang. Reconstruction work, it will be recalled, was started with the completion of the operations of the Japanese Forces in the Kinhwa and Lanchi areas in the summer of this year.

Admiral Nomura Retires

The Cabinet announced on December 15 the retirement at his own request of Admiral Kichisaburo Nomura from the post of ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, upon the completing of his mission.

Admiral Nomura, it will be recalled, returned to Japan from the United States on August 20 aboard the repatriation ship Asama Maru.

U.S. Liner Strike Mine, Sinks

The U.S. Navy Department has announced the loss of the 21,936 ton luxury liner President Coolidge which sank after striking a mine in the South Pacific Ocean while transporting 4,000 men. The liner, which was also carrying a full load of equipment, belonged to the American President Line and was commandeered by the U.S. Navy at the beginning of the war.

Kuriyama Ends Visit to Tokyo

Finishing his two-month stay in Tokyo during which time he conferred with the Government on various matters of importance, Ambassador Shigeru Kuriyama, Director-General of the Japanese Ambassadorial Headquarters in French Indo-China, returned to his post early last week. In a statement he issued just prior to his departure, Ambassador Kuriyama stressed the necessity of further strengthening ties between Japan and French Indo-China.

Oil Monopoly Bill Plan Is Passed

The plan for an oil monopoly bill which the Government expects to introduce into the coming regular session of the Imperial Diet was approved by the Cabinet early last week at its regular meeting. The projected bill is the 54th in the list of legislative bills for introduction into the coming Diet session whose outlines have been approved by the Cabinet. This law is to be provisional and good for the duration of the war.

The Mirrors of The Heroic Age

(Continued From Page 4)

effect a breach. He mastered the various passwords and countersigns used among them. And when at last everything was ready, he put on underneath his clothing, next to the skin, a cloth of plain white cotton—a raiment of death—in which he should commit harakiri if he were caught by the enemy, and over it a broad belt of silk brocade, a proud symbol of his birth and station. Thus resolved on the worst that might befall him, Katsuhiro departed upon his perilous journey.

Strange to say, Katsuhiro experienced little or no difficulty in breaking through the ranks of enemy guards. To the customary question "Who art thou, friend or foe?" he was ready to utter the catchwords he had learned, and so went his way straight toward his goal, quite unmolested is if he were walking among his friends. So at last he reached the outermost edge of the castle with incredible easiness, and there, as good luck would have, he was espied by one Kimura Heizo, chief of Ashigaru (foot soldiers) who knew him, and was speedily admitted inside through a side gate before the enemy had time to detect whether he was friend or foe.

The two brothers met, and Tsunashige, in full possession of the plan of campaign Ujiyasu was shortly to launch, gave necessary instructions to his 3,000 men as to how they should act when the cue was raised to make a sortie. Their morale revived a thousand fold, they eagerly awaited the hour of battle.

High Optimism Prevails

While rearmament was in full swing at Odawara, Ujiyasu was making good use of his "fifth-column" agents concealed among the Uyesugi ranks and the tradesmen who kept temporized shops on the Iruma river. Merchants of Odawara, well-known for their shrewdness in business, under the tacit encouragement of Ujiyasu, carried their diverse merchandise to Musashi to sell among the soldiers encamped there. A great city of 90,000 men had sprung around the Kawagoe Castle and on both banks of the Iruma. Good sake and tasty viands were freely sold as well as "the souvenirs of the battlefield" to be taken home after the "victorious" battle. These the soldiers were glad to buy to relieve the monotony of their weary siege. In all the camps there prevailed a high optimistic mood, for each day their confidence of easy victory over the Hojos seemed to grow stronger than ever. For Ujiyasu's agents were circulating the rumor that he showed no sign of improvement, being too scared at the prospect of certain ruin staring him in the face. There was a likelihood that he might surrender, Odawara and all, any moment just as he had done to the Imagawas.

The two great Uyesugi chiefs in their respective quarters held high banquets every day, felicitating their undoubted triumphs in advance. The picture of the two Uyesugis sitting on the right and the left of the throne of the ornamental Kubo Kanryo, themselves wielding actual power over Kanto, as in the good old days of their ancestors, was a sweet vision indeed. The glories of the past were going to be revived in the immediate future. So in their camps wine flowed abundantly; jokes were cracked; laughter rang; and even at times female voices were heard among the gala noise of merrymaking, mingled with the sound of music and dance.

Now and then Tsunashige made a sally, but after a little skirmish would beat a hasty retreat as if to show he was no match for the great hordes outside, and each time his sortie grew feeble and feebler. So passed easygoing days of confirmed optimism, imaginary victory and pleasing future dreams. The winter of bitter Musashino wind and frozen moors had passed, and the early spring of slippery ground and still unmelted hoarfrosts was slowly giving way to the vernal climate of warbling birds and smiling blossoms. Now for the first time there began to be heard from Odawara faint rumblings of warlike activities, which the men of Uyesugi were not altogether displeased to hear after such a long wearisome vacation of futile inaction.

(To Be Continued)

Sphere's Autarchy To Be Effected First

(Continued From Page 4)

World War, the United States by adopting an arrogant, blind policy of drawing in all the gold resources of the world to her treasury committed one of the most unforgiveable blunders in history. The world was pulled down to the depths of an economic depression unprecedented in scope and severity.

Due to her hold on the gold supply of the world, the United States is once against placed with a great responsibility. If after the restoration of peace and order following the present global struggle, the United States wisely permits the gold to flow freely instead of monopolizing it as she had done in the years before 1941, the trade of the various economic spheres may once again return to normal. Should she continue to follow her selfish ways, then the commercial relations of the regional economic spheres will have to be conducted by barter, and the development of a healthy world economy will never be realized. The curse of mankind will then be on the United States.

New China Bank Set Up

C.P.S.

SHANGHAI, December 18.—The Overseas Chinese Commercial and Industrial Bank was recently inaugurated here capitalized at $10,000,000.

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FURNITURE, radio-gramophone, sewing machines, pianos, cameras, refrigerators, typewriters, clothing, shoes, carpets. Best prices quoted because of special method of buying. Comparison with others invited. Write immediately and we will call. References from clients. Susumu Kusumoto, No. 1, Nagayado, Shibuya-ku, near Ebisu Station.

FOREIGN furniture, clothes, sewing machines, pianos, gramophones, carpets and refrigerators at very attractive prices. M. Sensui Shoten, 128, 3-chome, Motomachi, Yokohama. Tel. 2-2266.

GRAMOPHONES, records, electric gramophones, radio-gramophones, pianos, organs, accordions, refrigerators, typewriters, cameras, vacuum cleaners, sewing machines, electric razors, foreign furniture, new or used, wanted. Attractive prices paid. Please write or phone to Rhythm-sha, 16 Jimbo-cho Itchome, Kanda, Tokyo. Tel. Kanda 25-4459.

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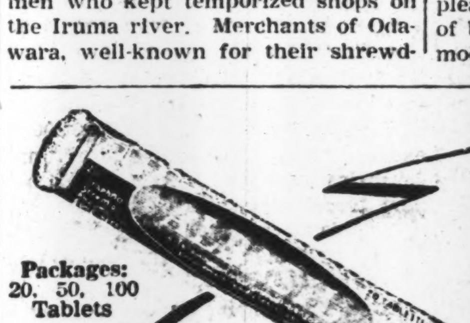

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TOKYO, MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1942

The First Anniversary of the Japan-Thai Alliance

We celebrate today the first anniversary of the conclusion of the offensive and defensive Alliance between Japan and Thailand, which marked a new epoch in the diplomatic relationship of the two countries.

The history of relationship between Japan and Thailand is old and it may be traced back to the seventeeth century, but to confine attention to the developments of their relations in recent years, we may mention that a Treaty of Commerce was signed in 1937 and the Treaty of Amity and Friendship was concluded in 1940 between them. These pacts served to render their relationship much friendlier. When, subsequently, Britain and America formed the anti-Japanese encirclement camp and brought pressure to bear upon Thailand in order to drag her into their camp, Thailand resisted their pressure resolutely and held stoutly to her attitude of friendliness toward this country.

Again, on Japan's declaration of war upon America and Britain on December 8 last year, Thailand adopted an attitude of collaboration with Japan in the Japanese military operations in the Southern Regions, leading to the entry of Japanese troops into Thai territory. The negotiations entered into between the two countries for the conclusion of an offensive and defensive alliance, with the object of prosecuting, in close concert, the war against America and Britain, made rapid progress and the Pact of Alliance was signed in Bangkok on December 21 last year.

In this Pact of Alliance was reflected the firm resolution of the Thai people to fight the holy war against America and Britain in close collaboration with Japan and their readiness to take an active part in the work of emancipating Greater East Asia and establishing a new order in this part of the world. Not only did it add to the significance of the War of Greater East Asia but it rendered the position of Thailand within the Co-Prosperity Sphere of Greater East Asia firm and unshakable. On January 25 this year, Thailand formally declared war upon America and Britain and in May Thai troops advanced into Shan State. In this way, Thailand's collaboration with Japan in the War of Greater East Asia took concrete shape. It may further be noted that on July 7, the anniversary of the outbreak of the China Affair, Thailand gave a fresh demonstration of her resolve to cooperate in the establishment of a new order in East Asia by giving formal recognition to the National Government of Nanking.

In March, through the reconstruction of the Pibul Songgram Cabinet, the wartime structure, both political and economic, was firmly established in Thailand. In April, that country sent to Japan the Grand Mission of Congratulations on the conclusion of the Alliance, under the leadership of Lieut.-General Phya Phahol Pholphaynha Sena, and to return the visit of this Mission, the Japanese Government later dispatched to Thailand the Grand Mission of Felicitation, which was led by Koki Hirota, the former Premier. The exchange of these friendship Missions, needless to say, further cemented the relationship of the two countries.

In the economic field, it may be noted that the Thai Government announced the severance of linking of the Baht with the Pound on February 1; the Thai Economic Mission under Nai Vanich visited these shores in April and, later, the Yen and the Baht were put on a parity and the Bank of Japan advanced a loan of ¥200,000,000 to Thailand. Thus, Thai economy was completely freed from the old yoke of Anglo-American influence and the economic foundations of the country were consolidated on the basis of the sound currency of bahts, the ties of close economic cooperation being at the same time forged between Japan and Thailand.

In the sphere of cultural activities also, the Cultural Agreement was signed between the two countries on October 28. In many other branches of activity too, earnest efforts are being made to promote friendly relations. In short, there is a daily growth of friendliness among the Thai people toward this country. Japan, on her part, manifested deep sympathy toward Thailand in the recent flood disaster by forwarding large quantities of relief goods.

This remarkable development of friendly relationship between Japan and Thailand during the past 12 months since the outbreak of the War of Greater East Asia must be said to have added another illustrious page to the diplomatic history of Greater East Asia. On the occasion of the first anniversary of the War of Greater East Asia the other day, it may be recalled, there was a historic exchange of broadcasts between Luang Pibul Songgram, the Thai Premier, and General Hideki Tojo, the Japanese Premier, the former eulogizing the brilliant war results achieved by the Japanese Forces and expressing the firm resolve of Thailand to forge even closer ties of collaboration with Japan, and the latter recording the unshakable determination of the Japanese Government and people to win the War of Greater East Asia. On that occasion, the Thai Premier paid a personal visit to the Japanese Embassy in Bangkok, and in Tokyo, General Tojo, the Japanese Premier, visited the Thai Embassy to toast the growing intimacy of the two countries. There indeed exist very strong bonds between the two peoples—bonds which spring from the consciousness that they are alike Asiatic races.

For many years, Anglo-American influence was deeply implanted in Thailand, and it was all owing to the strong faith which the entire Thai nation reposes in Luang Pibul Songgram and the resolute decision of the Thai Premier himself that the present firm union has been formed between Japan and Thailand through the elimination of the powerful and deep-rooted Anglo-American influence and through the successful settlement of many difficult domestic problems. A very high tribute is, indeed, due to the very great pains which the Thai Premier and other authorities of the Thai Government have taken in steering the ship of State wisely.

In greeting the first anniversary of the conclusion of the Pact of Alliance between Japan and Thailand today, we earnestly hope and confidently expect that their close collaboration will go on acquiring increasing force as a mighty influence working for the successful prosecution of the War of Greater East Asia and for the establishment of a new order in East Asia.

Gifted People All

Japanese have been taught for years to do many useful things with their hands. Manual training has always been a necessity in rural districts where each household made paper and cloth, wove baskets, did needlework and wherever possible used their hands to make the necessities of life. When mechanical production made its demands for skilled workers it was soon discovered that country girls showed great skill in operating spindles and were adept at running all kinds of machines used in manufacture. With their natural skill in using their hands the girls are easily training in factories. Today they are housed in dormitories where living costs are held to a minimum and entertainment, such as movies, is furnished. They work a few years and save enough to go back to the farm, marry, and settle down. Workers are already changing so that old people do not have to be employed. Even supposing that machine production, by its skill and cheapness, will threaten the existence of the fine art of handicraft production, yet the genius of the art periods of the past will reappear in the machine productions of the present and future. (Excerpt from "The Beauty of Japan.")

A Year Ago Today

—Dec. 21, 1941—

From the Files of Japan Times Advertiser

The Japanese Army and Navy units in close cooperation effected a landing on Mindanao in the Philippines on the morning of December 20, repulsing enemy resistance, it was announced by the Imperial Headquarters at 5:30 p.m. yesterday.

* * *

British military experts have admitted that the number of troops at Hongkong is not sufficient to defend the stronghold against the Japanese attack, according to a Domei report from Stockholm.

* * *

Japanese naval planes effected fierce air raids on December 18 on the enemy air base at Iloilo, destroying two large-sized planes, hangars and oil tanks, Crack units of the Japanese Naval Air Force raided Del Monte on December 19 and destroyed five large-sized planes on the ground in addition to six others shot down in the air, according to an announcement of the Imperial Headquarters.

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The Rumanian Minister in Tokyo, Major-General Georges Bagulesco and Military Attache Colonel Nicolas Radulesco called on the Naval General Staff yesterday and extended felicitations on the spectacular victories scored by the Imperial Navy.

* * *

A London cable reaching Stockholm states the British official and private circles admit that the Pacific air and sea power has been secured by Japan and are harshly blaming Air-Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham, Commander-in-Chief of the British Asiatic forces, for his defeats in the war against Japan.

* * *

The Portuguese Premier, Antonio Oliveira Salazar, declared before the National Assembly that England has no right to invade a neutral, friendly, allied country.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AUTARCHY WILL BE FIRST TASK OF SPHERE

No Difficulties Seen in Adjustment of Commercial Relations Among Nations in East Asia

By KENZO OSHIMA
(From the Gaiko Hyoron)

What will be the shape of the economic world to come? This question is not only intriguing but fascinating in that it draws us into regions which have never before been explored.

It seems certain that the direction of the current of world economics will be largely determined by the peace concluded at the end of the war. The first task the belligerents will undertake in the immediate post-war period will be to recover their original strength which will have been depleted by war and try to become economically self-sufficient and at a later stage, to compete for world markets. This was the case after the first World War. However, in the future, the traders will not be small, separate nations but regional spheres led by a leader-nation.

In the post-war dealings, the interchange of products will undoubtedly be made, first, among the component states comprising the co-prosperity sphere, and then by transactions among the different regional areas. For a considerable period after the conclusion of the war among the belligerents, therefore, all the different spheres will be principally engaged in nursing themselves back to health, building up reserves for contingencies but later will expend their efforts towards the production of raw materials of which they have a monopoly. For instance, the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere may produce for exchange purposes silk, rubber, tin, quinine and other materials, the American regional bloc, wheat, meat, raw cotton, coffee and oil and the European economic sphere, precision and other industrial products.

Products to Be Exchanged

I am convinced that the production of goods for exchange among the different spheres will be limited to materials of which they have a monopoly. The principle enunciated by the British classicists for the geographical distrubution of labor will no longer be tenable.

How, then, will trade be conducted by Japan in the first stage of the post-war period. An answer to this question will require an analysis of the pre-War of Greater East Asia economic transactions among the component units of the Asiatic continent. Before the outbreak of the War, the total volume of trade among Japan, Manchoukuo, China, French Indo-China, Thailand, the Philippine Islands, the Netherlands East Indies, Malaya and Burma aggregated approximately ¥10,000,000,000. The total exports were ¥9,843,788,000 and imports, ¥10,655,632,000. Should Australia and India's trade figures be included, the total volume of exports would be ¥14,458,436,000 and imports ¥15,402,521,000, an excess of imports over exports. Excluding the trade figures for Australia and India, the volume of goods exported to the nations of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere and to countries outside of Asia was ¥4,165,128,000 and ¥5,678,670,000 respectively. Of special note here is the fact that exports to non-Asiatic countries exceeded those made to countries in Greater East Asia. In other words, this amount of goods shipped to countries outside of Asia must, after the war, be absorbed within the Co-Prosperity Sphere. If the export figures of Australia and India to countries in East Asia and non-Asiatic countries be analyzed, the total exports to Asia will be found to be ¥5,631,188,000 and to the countries outside of Asia, ¥8,827,248,000 or an excess of exports of the latter over the former of ¥3,000,000,000. These Australian and Indian trade figures illustrate that the interest on British investments in these two countries were defrayed by means of exports of commodities to the home country, England.

Imports Examined

An examination of imports to the Greater East Asia countries and to the countries outside of Asia shows a flow respectively of ¥5,238,552,000 and ¥5,415,540,000 worth of goods. If Australian and Indian import volume be included, it will be found that there was about ¥1,400,000,000 excess of goods imported from countries outside of Asia, the import trade among the countries in East Asia themselves being ¥7,004,839,000 and that from the non-Asiatic countries, ¥8,396,582,000.

After the conclusion of the war, the items of goods on the trade list may be changed, for it is not inconceivable that the same kind of goods will be bought and sold among the nations after the war as before the war. In any case, the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere must be ready in the post-war era to absorb ¥5,600,000,000 worth of commodities which before the war were sold to non-Asiatic countries and to supply about ¥5,400,000,000 of goods which were supplied to East Asia by non-Asiatic countries. However, the solution of the problem is a comparatively easy one. Furthermore, if the Australian and Indian export and import figures are included, East Asia will have to absorb ¥8,800,000,000 of goods and supply to its component countries, ¥8,400,000,000 worth of commodities.

Japan's Position Shown

Japan's trade with the countries of Greater East Asia, in the case of exports, was ¥2,013,169,000 and, in the case of imports, ¥979,141,000. If Japan's trade with Australia and India is included, the aggregate would be ¥2,264,328,000 and ¥1,297,554,000 respectively. An examination of these figures will readily show that Japan sold most of her products to the countries of Greater East Asia, while, on the other hand, she bought the greater portion of her commodities from the countries in Europe and America.

As the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere produces mainly foodstuffs and raw materials for the industries, the adjustment after the war of the intra-sphere exchange of commodities should not offer such a difficult task. The precision instruments may have to be imported from Germany and paid for by the exportation of raw materials which it may need.

It is my conviction; therefore, that after the world conflagration dies down and peace is restored, all the regional economic spheres will strive for the establishment of an autarchic structure although in the case of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, a perfect self-sufficient economy to meet both the peace and War requirements of the sphere must be set up.

On the other hand, Economic Minister Walther Funk of Germany has remarked that the European economic sphere looks forward to the revival of commerce between the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere and the American regional bloc. However, this statement does not in any way affect my contention that the setting up of an autarchical structure will be the primary and immediate task of all the spheres.

Strength of Our Sphere

The trade relations among the regional blocs will commence as soon as these areas have become completely self-supporting. In view of the fact that the European economic sphere comprises well advanced industrial regions, it would seem that the foodstuffs and raw materials for the industries would not be adequate and that it would natural'y adopt the course of selling its manufactured goods to the world markets and thereby raising the living standards of its peoples. Such a policy is not without its counterpart in the program of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere for, in the final analysis, the advance of our manufactured products to all the markets of the world should be encouraged. However, as the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere possesses more than one-third of the total population of the world, the market for our goods is amply assured. In this factor lies the strength of our economic sphere.

One problem which will loom after the commencement of commercial relations among the spheres is how to settle the trade balance. The question might be put in another form: What shall be our medium of exchange? Since the outbreak of the European War, the importance of gold as the basis of the currency system has been denied by the countries whose supply of this metal is depleted. They point to the success of the managed currency system.

Problem of Gold

It must be remembered that the new currency system was brought into being by the unusual circumstances of war and if it is in the least possible to use gold in liquidating trade balances, there is no reason why it should not be employed again. Due to the high value of gold, there is no need for an excessive amount of this metal to support the currency structure. The German authorities have stated that the trade balances among the spheres may have to be settled by payment in gold. To look upon this yellow metal as an obsolete medium of payment is therefore not warranted. In the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere particularly where our country will be buying up a lot of materials from the various countries composing this bloc, the payment in part by gold and silver which are treasured by the natives will go a long way toward smoothening trade.

Furthermore, the existence of a mountain of gold in the United States is an indication that gold will not lose its former role as medium of exchange and is proof that her favorable balances of trade will have to be settled in gold.

A very important post-war problem which remains, however, is the distribution of gold. After the first

(Continued on Page 3)

THE MIRRORS OF THE HEROIC AGE

The Night Battle of Kawagoe

By SANTARO
Of Japan Times Advertiser Staff

Part VII

Whatever Ujiyasu's scheme of action against his formidable foes, it was a matter of vital urgency that he should effect at least one contact with Tsunashige in the Kawagoe Castle so as to tell him how matters stood at Odawara and to secure perfect co-ordination of conduct when he should launch the expected attack. First of all, Tsunashige must be told not to make any rash act but to wait patiently till the cue was given for his action. Who would carry this important message to Kawagoe, breaking through the iron cordon of besiegers through which "no ant was able to pass?" The scene which follows as the half-invalid Ujiyasu upon his thickly-cushioned seat in his great audience hall, calls for a brave volunteer to undertake this work as it is described in the original book to which this story is traced, is one of dramatic intensity.

Dramatic Scene

A solemn hush descends upon the whole assembly. Men look at one another with an expression of wonder and perplexity, if not hesitation or fear. They are all trusted warriors of staunch loyalty and dauntless pluck. If they are fearless of danger and death, they are not quite confident of their ability to make a success of this job; for it is a mission in which one cannot afford to fail, and it is the kind which requires much more than physical valor or fearlessness. But the silence is only momentary, for there now appears from the ranks a young page of Ujiyasu, a handsome youth of 16 years, Kushima Benchiyo by name. Making a deep bow before his Lord, Benchiyo remarks, as follows.

"I know how everyone of us, his Lordship's vassals, must covet this honor, and how presumptuous on my part it is to speak before other gentlemen, but you may easily guess I have a particular reason for claiming preferment in this case. This message, while it is of great strategic importance for the Hojos, is intended also to save my brother, Tsunashige, from the dangerous position he is now placed in. So this would be the chance for me to serve the double obligations of loyalty to our Lord and of fraternal piety—the rarest of chances any mortel on earth can have, the like of which will probably never visit me as long as I live. So I beg and pray with all my heart that this high mission be entrusted to me. If fortunately I were chosen, I would exert myself to the last breath of my unworthy life, and brave whatever risk or danger there might be in the paths. Were I caught by the enemy and condemned to die, or my body threatened to be quartered or torn to bits, or thrown into a cauldron of molten lead, should I flinch from it and divulge the great secret?"

All present are profoundly touched, as is his Lordship Ujiyasu himself.

"You shall go, Benchiyo," Ujiyasu said, "for I known you are, young as you be, the best man for this work, and make no doubt you will succeed. Go and do your best, as you say, both for myself and your brother."

Anon a tray is brought in on which are placed a decanter of sake and cups. Ujiyasu takes up his cup, empties it, and then given it to the young man to drink. "This is in celebration," says he, "of this auspicious mission upon which you are about to depart. May gods guard you against all danger and fulfil your mission in safety."

"This may prove the last I shall have of beholding your Lordship in this world." Benchiyo replies, "and may my Lord live long and enjoy a happy, victorious career."

As the young man speaks Ujiyasu's eyes fill with tears; and all those present are likewise affected, a tense silence reigning, broken only by the sobbing of some female attendants.

No Difficulty Experienced

Such is the account of the scene described, and we have only to correct a little discrepancy in the name and age of the young hero. In another and probably more authentic account he is described as a young man of goodly person of 26 years, named Fukushima Katsuhiro, who was rather delicate in physical constitution though he had a soul of fire and unconquerable courage. If he was a lad of 16, he must have been born 10 years after his father, Fukushima Masanori, died, and in that case was only a half-brother of Tsunashige, and as for the name Kushima, it is evidently an abbreviation of Fukushima, while Benchiyo was the childhood name by which Katsuhiro was called in earlier years.

Katsuhiro now closeted himself with expert men of the secret service, and taught himself something of the provincial dialects likely to be spoken in that part of the besieging troops through which he was to

(Continued on Page 3)

MANCHOU'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS STIR OTHER ASIATIC NATIONS

Securely Established as Independent State, Empire Has Become Important Base for Realization of New Order

By BAIGYO MIZUNO
(From the Gaiko Jiho)

Part II

The principal industry in Manchoukuo is agriculture, and about 84 per cent of the population are farmers. Agricultural products, mainly soya beans, constitute 74 per cent of her export trade. She produces more than 60 per cent of the world's soya bean production. Other important products are kaoliang, millet, corn, and wheat. The area of arable land in that country is 32,735,000 mo, of which 14,730,000 mo are under cultivation, showing that more than half still remains to be cultivated.

Realizing this agricultural condition, the Manchoukuo Government established a Department for the Promotion of Agricultural Industry. As the result, a number of agricultural experimental stations and meteorological observatories have been founded in various sections of the country. Other measures taken by this department included the dispatching of agricultural experts to farm villages, accommodation of loans to farmers, regulation of production and consumption of agricultural products, and construction of a water supply system. Efforts have also been made by the department to encourage diversified farming according to local conditions. Under this plan, the agricultural industry in Manchoukuo is expected to make a rapid progress in the near future.

Forestry Stations Opened

The Manchoukuo Government has established forestry stations at 28 different sections of the country to prevent reckless deforestation.

The marine product industry has also been making rapid development. This is particularly noticeable in fresh water fishery, and the annual catch amounts to ¥7,000,000 compared to the ¥3,600,000 of open sea fishery.

Salt manufacture is one of the three important industries in Manchoukuo, the others being bean raising and coal mining. The salt produced in the Kwantung Province is exported to Chosen and Japan Proper. The live stock industry is quite promising, but it still lags behind that of the agricultural and marine industries.

Japan has been sending farmers to Manchoukuo to settle in various isolated regions of the country in order to improve the agricultural condition of the new state in conformance with an agreement between the two countries. Since 1937, many colonists have been sent to Manchoukuo with an aim to have 1,000,000 Japanese farming families settled in that country in 20 years. As the result of this effort, 40,000 families representing 103,699 Japanese farmer immigrants have already settled in various sections during the past five years. During the next five years, the number of families is expected to reach the 130,000 mark.

When Manchoukuo is colonized by 1,000,000 Japanese families, this country will become the greatest food production center of East Asia.

Transportation Facilities

When Manchoukuo was first founded, the total length of railway lines in that country was no more than 6,226 kilometers. Since that time, new lines have been rapidly constructed, and now the total length has been approximately doubled.

These railways may be classified under the categories of national, private and foreign. The national railway lines are under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Communications, but the operations of the lines as well as all the other lines in the country are entrusted to the Manchoukuo Railway Company. The Government also has encouraged the construction of private railway lines in order to stimulate the development of local communities.

As there are many rivers in Manchoukuo waterway transportation is extremely necessary from the standpoint of national economy and national defense. Waterway transportation are important for the development of natural resources. Well-equipped transport facilities are found on the Liao, the Yalu, the Sungari, the Amur and the Nonni Rivers.

Aviation is playing a very important role in transportation. Due to the favorable geographical and atmospherical conditions a phenomenal progress has been made in this field. Passenger services connecting the leading cities for the total distance of 2,000 kilometers have already been installed by the Manchoukuoan Aviation Company. In addition to this, this company is cooperating with Japanese and Chinese aviation concerns for the maintenance of international airway services.

The importance of developing industries proportionally with the development of mineral resources has been stressed for years. In order to have special concerns work on important mineral resources such as gold, petroleum and coal, the Government promulgated the mining law in 1935. In 1939, a survey of the Government showed that the country is abundant in metallic and non-metallic mineral resources, but the development of these has not yet been undertaken on a large scale. At present, coal mining plays the most important role in the industrial field. The coal mine at Fushun is famous for its open-air mining while the output of the Fuhsin mine is the greatest in the country.

The Taliutzu coal mine and the Miaoerhkuo coal mine at Tungpientao are ready for development. The mining industry in Manchoukuo is still in the initial stage of development with great promises for the future.

Manufacturing Advances

The manufacturing industry, has advanced steadily. Many companies and various private manufacturing concerns have been established as the result of encouragement given by the Government. The Government promulgated the law for the control of important industries with a purpose to encourage development. A five-year plan was also adopted to accelerate progress in all branches of industry in order to strengthen the Japan-Manchoukuo-China economic block.

At present, the Showa Iron Works at Anshan, the Penhsihu Iron Works, the Light Metal Company, the Manchoukuo Coal Mining Company are making supreme efforts to increase their products. In addition to the general pulp manufacturing industries and the Manchoukuo-Mongolia Wool Weaving Companies, there are oil refineries at Fushun and hydro-electric power generating stations which are utilizing the water powers of the Yalu and Sungari Rivers. These plants will play a very important part in supplying the industries with necessary power. The Manchoukuo automobile and airplane factories have been operating with great efficiency. Judging from the rapid rise of the manufacturing industries in general, Manchoukuo, within the next 10 years will become an imposing industrial center.

Great efforts are likewise being made to promote national education. Under the domination of old military clique, the cultural aspects of the country had been so utterly neglected that it was necessary to retrain teachers. For this reason the educational system, promulgated in May, 1937, was not put into effect until January of the following year.

New System Enforced

According to this system, the primary school course covers from four to six years, the intermediate school course four years and the university course three or four years. If one starts his school career at the age of seven, he may finish the university course at the age of 20. The intermediate school includes middle school, girls' high school, normal and technical schools. In addition there is the National Foundation University, which is directly supervised by the Premier. This institution is divided into junior and senior courses each requiring three years for graduation. The following statistics on the number of schools were compiled during the period from January, 1938, to April, 1941:

Kinds of school	Number of schools	Number of students
Primary school	19,285	1,865,224
Middle school	218	66,230
Technical school	63	8,290
Normal school	28	7,448
University	18	7,462

(Note: Primary schools in Jehol Province are not included in this table.)

In addition to this, there are a number of special educational institutions for the training of government officials and scientists.

Manchoukuo Hsiehhuihui, leading welfare organization, has been quite active in carrying on social service work. Great efforts have been exerted for the prevention of opium smoking. The work is tedious and full of hardship and difficulties, and those who are engaged in the work have a very trying time, entirely beyond the imagination of outsiders. However it is gratifying that the number of vice victims has been gradually dwindling because of this concentrated campaign.

The social work organization, realizing that it was impossible to extend its activities throughout the country, enlisted the support of many other organizations and has been utilizing newspapers, radio, motion picture shows, and theatrical performances to emphase the importance of living up to the Oriental moral ideal. Measures of free medical treatments, and promotion of social centers for the poor and needy have been inaugurated. The central organization with its significant contributions is really worthy of being called the outstanding welfare agent in Manchoukuo.

The organization has also devoted itself to the training of young men's and children's leagues to improve the social condition in general. Many

(Continued on Page 3)